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Daily Report
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Japan

Uruguay Round Wrap-Up by Easter Said Doubtful

OW2503113692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1117 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official Wednesday expressed doubt that the Uruguay Round multinational trade talks being held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would be completed by Easter as has been proposed.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the direction of the negotiations depends on the United States and the European Community and there is "not much" Japan can do. His remarks suggest that a possible decision to move toward opening up Japan's rice market would not break the deadlock.

GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel has strongly advocated that the talks be concluded by Easter.

MITI 'Ready' To Cut EC-Bound Auto Exports

OW2503114192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is ready to lower the ceiling of auto exports to the European Community (EC) in a bid to cool building anti-Japanese sentiment there, ministry sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the ministry will propose shaving 20,000 vehicles off last year's EC-bound auto exports of 1.26 million units at bilateral talks scheduled for April 6-7.

The remarks came just a week after MITI announced a deep cut in Japan's voluntary auto export restraint for the United States, to 1.65 million vehicles in fiscal 1992 from the current 2.3 million.

The move, the sources said, is apparently designed to allay growing complaints in the EC over what they see as Japan's preferential treatment of U.S. automakers.

Shortly after Japan announced in January a sizable boost in its purchases of American cars and car parts to help slim the persistent bilateral trade surplus, Brussels called for similar government action on imports of EC auto products.

The sources said the reduction may not be sharp enough to satisfy the EC, which, citing the slumping demand, proposed a dramatic reduction at the previous auto talks in February.

But MITI is determined to resist EC calls for further curbs, particularly if Brussels demands putting the lid below the 1.23 million-a-year ceiling bilaterally agreed for Japan's auto exports during the transition period after the EC market unifies in 1993, the sources said.

Under the agreement, struck in July last year, Japan's EC-bound auto exports will be restricted to 1.23 million units a year from 1993 to 1999, after which imports are to be totally liberalized.

International Nuclear Center Opening 'Delayed'

OW2503122192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—The opening of an international nuclear center to accommodate former Soviet nuclear scientists will be delayed until early summer due to a squabble within the European Community (EC), a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official said representatives of Japan, the 12-nation EC, and the United States will meet sometime in April to work out details of an agreement to govern the center, which was originally to open in late March.

Foreign Ministry sources said, however, the major industrialized countries have uniformly decided to avert an uncontrollable exodus of the nuclear scientists by setting a new target date of early summer.

Russian Nuclear Plant Repair Aid Considered

OW2503054192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Japan is prepared to send technical experts to a crippled nuclear power plant 60 kilometers from St. Petersburg, the top government spokesman said Wednesday.

"If Russia makes a request (for technical assistance), we should give it positive consideration," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a regular news conference.

Japan attaches much weight to nuclear power and is very concerned about nuclear accidents, Kato said.

When it comes to nuclear safety management, Japanese technology is "best in the world," Kato said.

Japan has 41 nuclear reactors in operation, providing more than a quarter of the nation's energy needs, and another 11 reactors are under construction.

The nuclear plant at Sosnovy Bor, west of St. Petersburg, released radioactive gas into the atmosphere Tuesday, forcing the plant to shut down.

It is the first serious nuclear accident in what used to be the Soviet Union since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, which put a damper on the world's nuclear energy industry.

The severity of the accident was rated 3 on a scale of 7 used by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Seven is the rating assigned to the Chernobyl disaster.

Russian officials said that while the degree of the accident was serious, there was no comparison with Chernobyl.

Yakovlev Predicts Replacement of CIS Leaders

OW2503101792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—A former Soviet Politburo member predicted Wednesday almost all the leaders of republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States will be replaced in the next 18 to 24 months.

Aleksander Yakovlev, a close friend and adviser to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, made the prediction at the Japan National Press Club.

"I foresee that within the next year and a half to two years, all the leaders will be replaced, with the possible exception of (Kazakhstan President Nursultan) Nazerbayev," Yakovlev said.

Nazerbayev, he explained, is likely to remain in power longer than other CIS leaders because he is implementing "balanced policies."

Yakovlev did not specifically mention Russian President Boris Yeltsin, but later in his talk pointed to a high level of public support for Yeltsin despite the deterioration of living standards due to tough reforms.

He noted that the leaders of two former Soviet republics have already been replaced since the demise of the Soviet Union in December.

Explaining his prediction, Yakovlev said the leaders of the various republics are all high-profile former communists who were able to fulfill their long-held ambitions of leadership in the wake of the failed August 1991 coup by Soviet hard-liners.

He suggested the leaders do not have a firm grip on power because they have lost touch with the desperate needs of their people and the grim situation in their republics.

Yakovlev said there has long been far too much emphasis on ideology at the expense of addressing deteriorating living standards. He said he anticipates the emergence of more pragmatic leaders less mired in ideology.

On the future of the five predominantly Muslim Central Asian states in CIS, Yakovlev expressed concern the consequences of the "Islamic factor, which is a very major one, are something we cannot really predict."

Yakovlev said the Islamic republics might break away from the Commonwealth and become separate entities or unify in a confederation of their own.

"Both of those options are dangerous and threatening for the Western world," he said.

"If war were to break out in the region, everybody would be drawn into it as in the case of the Persian Gulf war," he said. "And if there is unification, that would become a source of fear for all of us, especially if there is a presence of nuclear weapons."

Yakovlev said Russia needs the help of Western nations to facilitate its full integration into the world economy "as an equal partner, not as a poor relative."

He said the adoption of such a stance by the West would help accelerate Russia's free market economic reforms, deepen political reforms, and consolidate an improvement in the living conditions of Russians.

Yakovlev said the transformation of the Soviet Union into the CIS was something he never predicted "in his wildest dreams."

He said while he wholeheartedly wishes the Commonwealth success, he opposes the way the Soviet Union was done away with, "at a meeting of three men in a forest somewhere."

Yakovlev said while there exists "no legal or moral foundation" to justify the way in which the CIS was conceived, the Soviet Union's demise is now a fait accompli so the efforts in some political circles to restore it are in vain.

In addition to serving as Gorbachev's right-hand man, Yakovlev was a former Politburo member, secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee, and key figure behind the conception and implementation of glasnost and perestroyka.

Yakovlev serves as one of the two vice presidents of the International Foundation for Socioeconomic and Political Studies, headed by Gorbachev, which opened in Moscow earlier this month.

Tokyo Protests to Seoul About Fishing Accord

OW2503054992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Japan asked South Korea on Wednesday to quickly do away with a recent agreement with Russia to fish in waters off a disputed group of islands the Soviet Red Army seized from Japan at the end of World War II, Japanese officials said.

Foreign Ministry officials said Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada made the diplomatic demarche in a meeting with South Korean Ambassador to Japan O Chae-hui, who was summoned to the ministry.

Owada was referring to an agreement Seoul and Moscow recently concluded allowing South Korean fishing boats to operate in the 200-mile zone around the four Japanese-claimed islands of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group.

The officials said Owada told the ambassador that the Japanese people are reacting strongly against the agreement, which could exert a major influence on future Japan-South Korea relations.

Lee [as received] was quoted as reiterating South Korea's stance that in concluding the accord with Russia it had no intention of undermining Japan's stand on the territorial issue.

He noted that stance was conveyed to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev when he visited Seoul last week.

The Japanese Government protested the fishing agreement directly to Kozyrev during his subsequent visit to Japan and called for it to be scrapped.

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe dismissed Kozyrev's suggestion that the agreement should not be taken in a political context because it is essentially an economic matter.

ROK Election Results Said Not To Affect Ties

OW2503053992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0440 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Wednesday the unexpected defeat of South Korea's ruling party will not have an immediate impact on bilateral relations.

"It appears that those in office were criticized and new candidates were at an advantage," Miyazawa said, commenting on the Democratic Liberal Party's (DLP) loss of its majority in parliament.

The DLP, which before elections held two-thirds of the seats in the national assembly, was expected to win fewer than half of the seats.

The Foreign Ministry expressed surprise at the upset.

One official said the ruling party loss prior to the presidential election this fall could cause South Korea to take a harsher stance on bilateral issues such as compensation for Korean "comfort women" who were forced into wartime prostitution for the Japanese Imperial Army and trade friction due to South Korea's record 8.8 billion trade deficit with Japan last year.

A member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said the election results increase the importance of parliamentary exchanges because "there is a limit to government-level negotiations."

"President No Tae-u has been highly appraised for conducting a foreign policy that enabled membership in the United Nations but people are dissatisfied with his policies that affect their livelihood," said the LDP member.

Aid for Former El Salvador Guerrillas Announced

OW2403084092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—Japan will provide 300,000 dollars through the United Nations to El Salvador to help meet the basic needs of former guerrillas and their families in that country, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Officials said Japan will send the funds to the UN Development Program (UNDP) for food and medical items.

Under the peace accord reached January 16 between the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the guerrillas have moved into 15 UN camps where they will gradually disarm by October.

Officials said relief materials are needed by some 20,000 people facing severe shortages of food and medicine at the sites where they are grouped.

Officials said the assistance is being extended for humanitarian reasons and to help promote the peace process in El Salvador.

Earlier this month, Japan also pledged 600 million yen (about 4.6 million dollars) in emergency aid for El Salvador.

LDP To Consider Easing Limits on Donations

OW2503131992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—A subcommittee of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] panel on political reform decided Wednesday to consider easing limits on political donations from companies to political organizations, party officials said.

The measure will be studied with a view to making up for revenue losses if political donations to individual politicians are prohibited as proposed in a political reform plan submitted to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa by the party's Political Reform Headquarters.

On March 13, the headquarters, headed by Takashi Hasegawa, submitted the reform plan to Miyazawa, who also serves as LDP president.

Among other things, the plan called for a ban on political donations to individual politicians and expansion of public funding of political parties.

Under the current law governing political donations, according to the size of their capital, companies are allowed to donate between 7.5 and 100 million yen each to individual politicians and between 3.25 and 50 million yen to each political organization.

In a meeting of the subcommittee on political funds held at the LDP head offices the same day, LDP members expressed concern that aggregate political donations by

companies would be decreased if contributions to individual politicians are banned as proposed in the reform plan, the officials said.

Campaigning Starts for Ibaraki By-Election

OW2503074792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0609 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Campaigning officially started in Ibaraki Prefecture on Wednesday for an upper house by-election in a race between a conservative-backed widow seeking to fill the post vacated by the death of her husband and a Japanese Communist Party candidate.

Yasu Kano, 57, backed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and Communist Party candidate Tatsuo Nara, 59, filed their candidacies Wednesday morning for the April 12 House of Councillors by-election and went out on the streets to woo voter support. [passage omitted]

Mieno: Economy in 'Bad Shape'; Hints No Cut

OW2503083992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor (BOJ) Yasushi Mieno conceded Wednesday the Japanese economy is in bad shape, but did not clearly signal an imminent cut in the official discount rate.

Mieno said the current inventory adjustments could drag on longer than the central bank had anticipated, but he stressed that chances were slim of a big tumble in the economy.

He told a press conference that the bank would continue to monitor the effects of past cuts in the benchmark rate, which it has lowered four times since July, by 0.5 percentage point each time.

Recent economic indicators, mostly bearish, point to the possibility that inventory adjustments could continue, he said, adding "we are closely watching the economic conditions, including this possibility."

The central banker termed the current phase of the business cycle "crucial," saying, "that's why we cut the expression 'firm footing' from our monthly financial and economic report," which was released Tuesday.

Mieno said the puny growth reported this week in the broad money supply was "because businesses are in poor condition."

The bank said Monday that February's broad money supply—measuring cash in circulation, time and demand deposits, and certificates of deposit—was up only 1.6 percent from a year earlier, the lowest growth rate ever.

Mieno, citing a "time lag" between interest rate cuts and upturns in the money supply, attributed the slow growth mainly to soft capital demand among companies.

"I don't believe the sagging money-supply growth is putting any drag on the economy," he said. But he added that the central bank should take care not to allow the adjustment phase to degenerate into a wholesale recession.

Mieno's remarks did not include any clear signals of an imminent easing of the BOJ's grip on credit, but central bankers historically downplay the possibility of a change in the key rate up until they implement one.

He reiterated that the labor market remains tight and capital investment in the nonmanufacturing sector is still strong.

Considering the accumulated effects of the monetary easing since last July and fiscal stimulation measures expected to start working soon, he said, "the chances are slim that the economy will keep losing steam (for long)."

He said the BOJ has "not changed our recent policy stance" that monetary conditions are sufficiently conducive to guiding the economy into balanced growth.

"The current adjustment of the economy is an inevitable process for the economy to shift to a balanced growth after several years of too-fast expansion," he said.

Saying it was time for fiscal, not monetary, policy to spur the economy, Mieno said, "we have been doing our jobs for nine months now."

Mieno said a package of measures the government is to announce Tuesday to rev up the slowing economy is important in that it will set both wheels of economic policy—monetary and fiscal—rolling.

But he took issue with an element of the proposed measures suggesting that the central bank might synchronize an official discount rate cut with the announcement of the package to bolster its effects.

"The BOJ will decide monetary policy on its own, on the basis of a comprehensive judgment of financial and economic conditions," Mieno said. The central bank is officially independent but has been under pressure from government and business officials to cut the benchmark rate, which it charges on loans to other banks.

Yet, Mieno said there was "no disagreement in the assessment of economic conditions between the BOJ and the government."

The markets have been digesting and redigesting the widely expected rate cut for weeks. Dealers say the markets have already discounted a rate cut as big as 0.75 percentage point.

"Mieno's recalcitrance has really turned off the market," Toshihiko Takahara, a bond dealer at Credit Suisse, said of Mieno's resistance to the calls for a rate cut. "There are no moves whatsoever now."

Brokerage Houses To Close More Sales Outlets

OW2503074692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—Japanese securities companies are scaling down their operations amid the stock market slump by closing sales outlets.

Industry sources said more than 20 outlets, mostly mini-offices operated by second-tier brokerage houses, have already been closed, and the number is expected to exceed 30 soon.

Most of these outlets are in rented buildings, and their closures will help parent firms cut rent payments and other routine expenditures.

Most of the closed offices belong to second-tier brokerages, which have been hardest hit by the market slump, the sources said.

Of Japan's "Big Four" securities firms, Yamaichi Securities Co. has shut two sales offices.

Nomura Securities Co., leader of the four, has said it would not scale down its sales operations, but No. 3 Nikko Securities Co. said it is studying a possibility of realigning its sales outlets.

Finance Ministry's approval is required for the opening or closing of sales outlets by securities firms, but the ministry has made it a rule to approve requests for realignment automatically in view of the stock market's weakness, officials said.

North Korea

U.S. 'Local War Scenario' on Peninsula Berated

SK2503114392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1114 GMT 25 Mar 92

["Arrow of Adventurous '"Local War Scenario"'—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA)—It is foolish of the U.S. imerialists to attain their criminal purpose in Korea through a "local war scenario." They would be well advised to remember the lesson of their defeat in the Korean war. NODONG SINMUN says this in a by-lined article today.

Recalling that the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a House committee recently stated that the U.S. military strategy had been revised from "global war senario" to "local war scenario" and he cited the Persian Gulf war as a typical example of local war an openly cried that the target of another local war is Korea, the article goes on:

The "local war scenario" is, in essence, a new military operation script and war program to maintain and expand the U.S. domination and interests in different areas of the world under the name of "deterrence of local disputes".

By executing this adventurous "local war scenario" the U.S. imperialists are trying to stifle independent and revolutionary countries, establish a reactionary "new world order" and gratify their desire to dominate the world and are directing the sharp edge of it to Korea for the present.

The United States is stepping up their aggressive Korea policy, saying that it is the U.S. primary task to prevent the "outbreak of disputes" and guarantee "stability" on the Korean peninsula.

The continued maintenance of the U.S. Forces present in South Korea and arms buildup is, in fact, to meet the demand of the "local war scenario".

The United States rescinded the program of U.S. troop pullout from South Korea and is building up the Armed Forces under the pretext of fictitious "threat" and "nuclear development" of someone.

The ceaseless war exercises in South Korea are part of the moves to carry the "local war scenario" into practice.

Worse still, the U.S. imperialists have made the provocation of a Korean war a fait accompli and are trying to apply to it the reckless "principle of air and ground battle."

The U.S. imperialists are building their forces in South Korea with crack units and increasing their mobility and are staging exercises of surprise three-dimensional attack on in-depth and frontline areas of the North with the mobilization of all kinds of tactical and strategic forces based in South Korea, the Asia-Pacific region and the U.S. mainland.

The U.S. scheme clearly shows its invariable aggressive nature.

MAC Discusses Propaganda Spread in Joint Area

SK2503110392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Our side requested a security officer's meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC], which was held yesterday [24 March] in Panmunjom.

In response to the enemies' grave crimes committed in the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom, our side of the MAC asked the U.S. side for a security officers' meeting at 1000 [0100 GMT] on 23 March. However, the security officer's meeting was held yesterday [24 March] because the U.S. side delayed it one day.

At the meeting, our side's security officer Pak Yong-hum said the U.S. side scattered propaganda material, which slander us politically, in the Joint Security Area around 2400 [1500 GMT] on the night of 22 March.

The propaganda material was scattered on the North's side of the conference room at Panmunjom, the backyard of the Panmun house, and various places where our guards were on duty. Tens of thousands of propaganda material was scattered around the Joint Security Area that day alone.

Showing some of them to the enemy side's security officer, our side's security officer gravely called the enemy to account and said: At a time when the historic agreements have been recently adopted between the North and the South and when the meetings of various subcommittees for the successful implementation of these agreements are being held, how should we view these grave provocative acts committed by the U.S. side? Moreover, the U.S. side's aggravation of the situation by scattering many copies of propaganda in the Joint Security Area—where military personnel of the two sides stand face to face and where important dialogues take place between the North and the South—has caused us to be deeply apprehensive.

Our security officers cannot repress their surging indignation over the U.S. side's scattering of such propaganda.

Strongly protesting this crime committed by the U.S. side, our side's security officer strongly demanded that whoever organized this act be sternly punished and that responsible steps be taken to prevent its recurrence.

The enemy side's security officer could not find an excuse when presented with our side's clear evidence and reasonable argument. While admitting the distribution of the propaganda materials, the enemy side's security officer tried to blame the South Korean authorities, claiming that it was a problem to be solved at the governmental level.

Our side's security officer asked: Can the United States have the nerve to say that it is not responsible for such criminal acts committed against us in the Joint Security Area, when it holds all real power, including military control? Then he stressed: At today's meeting, our side called the U.S. side to account for its criminal acts and called for it to take responsible steps to prevent its recurrence. This is extremely just in view of the Armistice Agreement and the agreements reached between the two sides and in light of the North-South dialogue taking place in this area.

Nevertheless, instead of guaranting that our demand will be implemented, the U.S. side is attempting to evade responsibility for its criminal acts.

Because of this kind of attitude from the United States, political propaganda materials are being repeatedly scattered, and provocations and violations never cease in this area. As the officer in charge of the security of this area, you should assume responsibility for this.

In conclusion, our side's security officer stressed: If the enemies aggravate the situation at the Joint Security Area by continuously committing such criminal acts despite our side's repeated warnings, total responsibility should be assumed by U.S. side.

South Korea

Ruling Party Loses Majority in General Elections

SK2503032992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0317 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—With 99 percent of the vote counted, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) had lost its majority and suffered a shocking defeat in Tuesday's [24 March] general elections.

As of 10 A.M. Wednesday, 115 or 116 ruling party candidates had won or were assured of winning a seat in the National Assembly in the 237 electoral districts throughout the country.

Of the 62 national constituency seats assigned by proportional representation, the DLP is expected to get 33, bringing its total to 148 or 149 seats in the 299-seat assembly, one or two short of a majority.

As a result, the 14th National Assembly will be a coalition controlled by the opposition parties unless the DLP succeeds in persuading some independents to join its ranks.

In an impressive show of strength, the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) swept all but two of the districts in its traditional power base, the Cholla Provinces. In addition, it did very well in Seoul, scored upset victories in its satellite cities like Inchon and Suwon, and other Kyonggi provincial cities.

A jubilant DP leadership, led by Kim Tae-chung, celebrated the victory Wednesday morning as it fulfilled their promise to become "a balancing force" in the nation's unicameral assembly against the DLP, which became a majority ruling party through a merger of three parties in early 1990.

The DP had won or was assured of winning in 75 districts while the upstart Unification National Party, led by Hyundai group founder Chong Chu-yong, had clinched victories or was assured of them in 24 to 25 districts.

The Unification National Party thus won the qualification to become a parliamentary negotiating group, which requires more than 20 seats.

Independents also emerged as a decisive factor in the upset defeat of the DLP as 21 of them, including all three in Cheju Island, won their election races.

Only one other small political party, the New Political Reform Party, managed to send a representative to the Assembly. Its founder and leader, Pak Chan-chong, won in a Seoul district.

The results of Tuesday's elections were already sending shockwaves, heralding drastic changes on the nation's political scene, including strategies for the presidential elections, scheduled for December this year.

The changes in the parliamentary power balance will also bring difficulties for the administration of President No Tae-u, who has less than one year to go in his office, some analysts say.

In Seoul, which has always been the crucial area in national politics, there were tooth-and-nail battles in many districts between the ruling and main opposition parties. DLP candidates ended up winning only 16 out of the total of 44 districts while DP candidates won 25. The Unification National Party won two and the splinter New Political Reform Party won one.

Regional antagonism, which had been a bane for the development of democracy, showed little sign of abating, although the DLP managed to establish what some observers call "a foothold" in the opposition stronghold in the Cholla Provinces by winning two seats . Many DP candidates, meanwhile, waged uphill battles and lost in the DLP's backyard of South Kyongsang Province.

The Unification National Party, whose surprising performance was dubbed "a whirlwind," had won or was assured of winning two to four seats in all but the Cholla Provinces.

The vote-getting rate was 38.5 percent for the DLP, 29.2 percent for the DP and 17.3 percent for the Unification National Party.

Among the notable winners are former Rep. Chong Ho-yong, who had returned to run in the general elections after two years of self-imposed exile in the United States, and former professor Kim Tong-kil, who ran as a Unification National Party candidate in one of the most hotly contested districts in Seoul.

In another closely watched race, ruling party candidate Yi Chong-chan won in the prestigious and politically important district of Chongno in Seoul.

Comedian Chong Chu-il, alias Yi Chuu-il, who made a stir when he suddenly left the country for Hong Kong during the early stage of the campaign under alleged political pressure, won his race in Kuri, near Seoul.

President No Tae-u's in-laws, Kim Pok-tong in Taegu, Pak Chol-on, also in Taegu, and Kum Chin-ho in Youngju-Youngpung, North Kyongsang Province, won their races.

But some prominent candidates like Nam Chae-hui, Hwang Pyong-tae, O Yu-pang and Pak Yong-man, all of them from Seoul, lost. So did Kim Chung-kwon in Ulchin, Chong Tong-song in Yoju, Chong Chong-taek in Chongju, Yu Han-yol in Kumsan and Kim Hyon-uk in Tangjin.

For the opposition DP, spokesman No Mu-hyon in Pusan, Kim Hyon-kyu in Seoul, Yi Sang-su in Seoul and Kim Kwang-il in Pusan were defeated.

DLP One Seat Short of Majority

SK2503081492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0749 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—In the last result of the 14th general elections, incumbent lawmaker Kim Yong-ku of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) has won in Seoul's Tongdaemun-b constituency.

Another DLP incumbent, Kang U-hyok, came from behind to claim victory in Inchon's Namdong constituency Wednesday.

The final tally by the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) gives the DLP 116 seats, the opposition Democratic Party (DP) 75, the Unification National Party (UNP) 24, the New Political Reform Party (NPRP) one, and independents 21.

Based on this, the DLP will receive 33 national constituency seats, the DP 22 and the UNP seven. The CEMC will officially announce the distribution of seats by proportional representation on Thursday.

The ruling camp will have 149 seats out of a total of 299, one short of a majority. The main opposition DP will take 97 seats and the UNP 31, allowing it to form a floor negotiation group.

DLP Expresses 'Shock'

SK2503032492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] expressed "disappointment and shock" Wednesday at the outcome of the parliamentary elections, and the major opposition Democratic Party [DP] declared the DLP's "complete defeat."

In a statement, DLP Secretary-general Kim Yun-hwan said: "We have observed the result with disappointment and shock... We will sincerely reflect the reprimand and the wishes of the people in state administration in the days ahead."

DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam told reporters he was sorry he had failed to meet the "public's expectations."

"We will accept the people's will as expressed through the elections humbly, and we will reflect on ourselves. As political stability is more important than anything now, we, as the ruling party, will make our best efforts to set the people at ease," the DLP's no. 2 man said.

DP co-leaders Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek, in a statement, said the DLP had suffered "a complete

defeat" in the election by failing to garner majority support nationwide, particularly in the metropolitan area.

"The defeat of the DLP shows the wise judgment of the people against the walkover of the giant ruling party and the various corrupt practices the DLP committed during the electioneering period," the statement said.

"Our party will pursue reform amid stability to answer to the public support. We will keep the five pledges we have made for honest politics, price stability, restoration of order, solution of the traffic problem, and elections for local administrative heads," it said.

Chong Chu-yong's Unification National Party, which has emerged as Korea's second largest opposition party, claimed that it had taken root as a representative of the people by producing lawmakers all over from Seoul to Taegu, and Kyonggi, Kangwon, Chungchong and Kyongsang Provinces.

"We will rearm ourselves with policies and will try to realize clean and honest politics and a vital economy through substantial parliamentary activities," a statement said.

No Urges DLP To Accept Results

SK2503032792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0303 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u told the ruling camp Wednesday to accept the results of the elections humbly and strive to reflect it in state management.

"The government should make greater efforts to restore the nation's economy, the most crucial task in state management...The DLP (ruling Democratic Liberal Party, which No heads) should put a definite end to intra-party conflict and the self-conceit that displayed in some sectors since the three-party merger," No said after being informed of the election results.

"The party should be born again with a resolution to renovate its atmosphere and should positively reflect in its operation the people's will exhibited in the elections and earn the love and trust of the people," No said.

He said the elections had proved the enhanced political sense of the people and the ruling camp's firm stand to realize fair elections.

No will meet with his cabinet ministers Thursday [26 March] morning to give directions on restoring social order and on state administration and will discuss party affairs with Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam later this week. Kim led the ruling camp's election campaign.

The DLP was born early in 1990 from the merger of No's Democratic Justice Party with Kim's Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party of Kim Chong-pil.

No To Discuss Results With DLP Leaders

SK2503092092 Seoul YONHAP in English
0811 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u is expected to call top leaders of his ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] to Chongwadae soon to discuss ways to salvage the party from its defeat in Tuesday's general elections, party sources said Wednesday.

DLP Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan and Son Chu-hwan, senior presidential secretary for political affairs, meanwhile, were to have conferred Wednesday morning to evaluate the outcome of the general elections and work out ways to cope with post-election problems of the party, the sources said.

The sources could not specify the date for the president's planned meeting with DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and Co-chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun.

The meeting will be held amid rising demands among rank and file party members for reforms, which will include actions to punish those responsible for a smear campaign against an opposition candidate in a Seoul District by a number of National Security Agency officials, the sources said.

The DLP is said to be working to bring some of the successful independents into its fold in order to make up a majority in the National Assembly.

Among them are Cho Chin-hyong (Inchon), Yi Chae-hwan (Taejon), Kang Chang-hui (Taejon), Kim Chong-nam (Samchuk), Yi Sang-chae (Kongju), Yi Sung-mu (Chomchon-Mungyong), Pak Hon-ki (Yongchon), Ho Hwa-pyong (Pohang), Ha Sun-pong (Chinju), Hyon Kyong-tae (Cheju), Yang Chong-kyu (North Cheju), and Pyon Chong-il of Sogwipo, the sources said.

The DLP had said it would readmit those who won races as independents after being dropped from the party.

Voters Reject Status Quo

SK2503084692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0723 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—The ruling party asked the voters for their continuing support in return for political and social stability, but the voters, obviously dissatisfied with the status quo, handed the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) a crushing defeat in Tuesday's elections for the National Assembly. Despite all of the rhetoric and the campaign promises of a rosy future, the immediate and disheartening prospect of rising consumer prices and the sense of doom invoked by the nation's sagging economy must have been foremost in people's minds when they cast their judgement in elections that had the lowest voter turnout of any general elections, 71.9 percent.

"I went to the polls with one eye on prices, which seemed to be going up even as I cast my vote," a housewife said in a television interview Tuesday afternoon.

Voters apparently meant to send a clear signal to the ruling party and the government to tighten their belt and start tackling economic, political and social issues in more effective, fair and equitable manner.

One of the immediate effects of Tuesday's elections was, of course, the DLP's loss of its majority and the specter of the National Assembly being controlled by a coalition of opposition parties.

By sending more than 70 opposition representatives to the assembly, voters clearly heeded the appeal by the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) to make it "a checking force" against the "arbitrary control" of the ruling party.

More surprising and significant, however, was the impressive performance of the newly established Unification National Party (UNP), led by Hyundai group founder Chong Chu-yong. Dubbed "a conglomerate party," the UNP was seen by many to have played a crucial role in defeating the DLP with pocket-book issues.

Another immediate and inevitable result of the elections will be an intra-party feud and bickering within the DLP. There are already demands among rank and file party members for replacement of those responsible for the ignominious defeat.

Many DLP members are also said to be demanding reforms in the party, including punishment of those responsible for a smear campaign against an opposition candidate in a Seoul district by some national security agency officials and allegations of vote rigging in the military.

Some DLP analysts believe these two incidents, coming in the final stage of the campaign, were crucial factors against the ruling party.

Others maintain, however, that the DLP was in no position to win more than 150 seats even before the incidents because it had failed to develop any significant issues during the early stages of the campaign.

But the most important and far-reaching impact of the general elections will be on the presidential election, scheduled for December.

"Tuesday's elections effectively sent the DLP's strategy for the presidential election back to the drawing board," one DLP insider said. There were already calls within the party for Kim Yong-sam to resign as the party's executive chairman.

Noting that among the successful candidates of the Unification National Party and independents were those who had failed to win DLP nominations, party insiders said many party members will question the standards and wisdom of the party nomination processes.

While the DLP is trying to face and resolve those difficult problems, the victorious Democratic and Unification National Parties are expected to launch a strong political offensive as a controlling group in the Assembly.

A confident Kim Tae-chung, co-leader of the DP, did not waste much time Wednesday putting his strong showing to good use.

"We will have to hold local elections," he said. The elections were postponed by President No Tae-u, citing economic difficulties. The UNP's Chong Chu-yong was also reported to be thinking along those lines.

Analysts, meanwhile, point out that the nation as a whole has a long way to go before realizing full-fledged democracy. They cite unabated regional antagonism, mainly between the Cholla and Kyongsang Provinces. No democratic party candidate has won a seat in the Kyongsang Provinces, although two DLP candidates won their races in North Cholla Province.

Another deplorable development to emerge from Tuesday's balloting, they add, was the complete failure of voters to elect a woman candidate or a candidate from one of the so-called progressive political parties, including the Minjung Party.

Records Set in Elections

SK2503090892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0625 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—The 14th National Assembly elections on Tuesday set a number of records, starting with the lowest voter turnout in the history of Korean general elections at 71.9 percent.

Kim Tu-sop, running in the Kimpo-Kanghwa constituency in Kyonggi Province, proved himself to be the most persistent candidate in the nation's history, winning a parliamentary seat at his ninth attempt.

Since he first ran in 1960, in the Fifth National Assembly elections, Kim has been in every race except one.

Cha Hwa-chun, a Unification National Party candidate in the Ulsan-B constituency, was probably the luckiest contestant, collecting just 11 more votes than the ruling party runner-up, Kim Pong-ho, with whom he had waged a neck-and-neck competition from the start of the ballot counting.

In another tight race, Kim Pom-myong, also from the UNP, took the laurels with only 24.81 percent of the valid votes in the constituency of Nonsan, South Chungchong Province.

The honor of the greatest victory went to Yi Kil-chae, a Democratic Party candidate in Kwangju-Puk-B, who won 85.66 percent of the valid votes.

Pak Kwan-yong claimed the honor of winning the largest number of votes, being endorsed by 92,353 members of the constituency of Tongnae-Kap, Pusan.

Hong Yong-ki, 74, a Democratic Party candidate running in Imsil-Sunchang, North Cholla Province, was the oldest of the 237 people elected Tuesday.

The youngest victor was Cho Il-hyon, 37, who won a seat in Hongchon, Kangwon Province, on the UNP ticket.

"This is a great victory for the voters here, who have elected an opposition candidate for the first time in history. It was like catching a bull with a needle. I tried to let the voters pour out their grudges and complaints as residents of a collapsing farming community."

Cho said he defeated Yi Ung-son, 57, the DLP incumbent and a former vice minister of science and technology, by having an organized campaign.

In the previous election, Cho lost to Yi by 11,000 votes, winning only 8,667 votes. This time, Cho won 6,786 more votes than Yi.

Cho said he had campaigned systematically by operating an institute to study the problems of the farming community and by mobilizing some 1,000 young supporters. He made the first attempt in the 12th elections, at the age of 29.

Independent Pak Hun-ki served as a model for less-fortunate people by adding one more record to his career. An attorney whose formal education ended after graduating from primary school, Pak passed the judiciary test through self-education and is now the member of parliament from Yongchon, North Kyongsang Province.

Election Body Not Challenging Chong Chu-yong

SK2403145292 Seoul YONHAP in English
1221 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 24 (YONHAP)—The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) announced Tuesday evening that it would not call into question Chong Chu-yong's qualifications to be a member of a political party.

Relevant laws banning political activities by journalists do not apply in the case involving the Unification National Party (UNP) leader since he is not considered a "journalist who can influence public opinions by news coverage, press commentaries or other professional journalistic activities" as is defined by the laws, the committee said.

The announcement said Article 32 of the National Assembly Election Law and Article 17 of the Political Party Law cannot be applied to the people working with those periodicals that are published by, and distributed among, members of fraternity organizations.

Chong's qualifications came into question last week after the Minjung (Masses) Party, a fledgling opposition party, raised doubts about them, reasoning that he might be violating the laws governing the qualifications of political party members by retaining his position as the publisher of the "CHEYUK TONGAHOEBO," a sports fraternity magazine.

The CEMC, meanwhile, did not examine similar charges, filed by the UNP in its counteraction, involving ruling party co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, ruling party candidate Kim Chae-kyum, and 15 other politicians.

The committee explained that it arrived at the ruling after considering advices and suggestions from various walks of social life, including academic and journalistic circles. It further said it had to announce the decision right before the closing of the balloting to minimize its political implications.

Conglomerates Respond to UNP Showing

SK2503054992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0459 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—The outcome of the general elections apparently took South Korea's business circle by surprise, especially the strong showing of Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong's Unification National Party (UNP).

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) lost its majority, and the UNP won enough seats to form a floor negotiation group in Tuesday's elections.

The outward response of organizations such as the Federation of Korean Industries and the Korea Foreign Trade Association was that each political party should humbly accept the results and cooperate to revitalize the country's sagging economy.

But many business leaders already had their guard up lest the UNP try to seek special benefits for the Hyundai Group through its political activities.

Hyundai executives said the victory of the UNP was due to the people's disappointment at the DLP's economic performance.

"Since the UNP earned seats throughout the country, it will shed its image as a conglomerate's party and work diligently to put our economy in the black," one Hyundai official said.

The Daewoo Group, whose Chairman Kim U-chung openly criticized Chong for his political activities, said it had expected the UNP to make a strong showing.

The UNP won more seats than anticipated, but Daewoo had predicted that it would become a political force, company officials said on the election results.

"Bygones are bygones," they said of past bickering.

"If the UNP tries to protect only the Hyundai Group, other conglomerates will form a united front against it. But we don't expect such things to happen," Samsung officials said.

The UNP will speak for the whole economic circle and it should embrace the Daewoo Group as well despite past incidents, they said.

A Lucky-Goldstar official said his group had always maintained political neutrality.

"We don't feel the need to officially comment on the election results. We accept the results objectively," he said.

Chon Tu-hwan's Brother-in-law Elected

SK2503100792 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 25 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] Kim Sang-ku, independent candidate and former President Chon Tu-hwan's brother-in-law, was elected from Sangju, North Kyongsang Province, defeating Kim Kun-su from the Democratic Liberal Party. He said: "My election means the revival of the Fifth Republic and a victory for former President Chon Tu-hwan." Kim was in the 15th class of the Korean Military Academy and was chairman of the 12th National Assembly's Transportation and Post Committee.

He also said: "I have suffered suppression of all kinds. However, even government officials have been on my side." He also said: "Because I stood up by my own efforts, I will work in politics will according to my convictions."

Officers To Sue Over Election Fraud Accusation

SK2503053692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] An Army lieutenant colonel and three captains, senior officers of 1st Lt. Yi Chi-mun who Sunday charged rigged absentee voting in his unit, yesterday sued HANGYORE SINMUN and three of the daily's journalists for libel.

In a letter of complaint filed with the prosecution, Lt. Col. Hong Kyong-hyon, Capts. Kim Tong-won, Mun Chol-chun and Kim Hyong-su called for "correction" of Hangyore's Monday and Tuesday articles about Yi's allegation.

They said they will also launch a civil suit for compensation.

But they did not say why they will sue only HANGYORE. The independent daily carried a banner-headline story about 1st Lt. Yi's news conference condemning rigged absentee voting in the military in its Monday edition.

In the letter, released through the Defense Ministry, the four officers of the 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment of the 9th Infantry Division charged that HANGYORE's reporter Yi Pyong-hyo "advised" 1st Lt. Yi to reveal the allegations in a news conference.

Publisher Kim Pyong-kol and editor-in-chief Song Han-pyo printed the charges, bringing disgrace on them, they charged.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry announced that Yi's controversial allegations about rigged absentee voting in his unit proved false and unfounded.

Army Unit Accused of Cover-up Attempt

SK2503095992 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 25 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] Well after the absentee votes were cast, an unidentified unit under the control of the 28th Regiment of the 9th ROK Army Division, which has come under fire since Lt. Yi Chi-mun disclosed the rigging of absentee votes in the unit, is reported to have tried to borrow ballot booths that had already been returned from the Election Management Committee on 23 March to fabricate a photograph showing that there was no rigging of the votes. This was apparently part of a public relations effort

According to the Paju Election Management Committee on 24 March, a warrant officer from the unit visited the committee at 0910 on 23 March, saying that he wanted to borrow the ballot booths. The Election Management Committee turned down the request on the grounds that the central office had banned the loan of the equipment, citing "the uproar created by the disclosure of Lt. Yi about the tampered absentee votes" as the reason.

This warrant officer is quoted as saying: We need ballot booths to take photographs of the voting. Defense Ministry reporters are coming down today to verify whether Lt. Yi's allegation is true, and we need photographs to show the reporters.

The 28th Regiment, to which this warrant officer's unit belongs, had returned the ballot booths on 20 March. It had borrowed them from the election management on 5 March for the absentee voting in the units under its control.

North-South Subcommittee Fails To Reach Agreement

SK2503080392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea discussed adopting an agreement or agreements to expedite exchanges and cooperation Wednesday, but failed to iron out their differences. They will meet again on April 2.

In the first meeting of the inter-Korean subcommittee for exchange and cooperation, the South proposed adoption of auxiliary agreements on four subjects—the

problem of separated families, travel and telecommunications, economic exchange and cooperation, and social and cultural concerns.

In the contact at the truce village of Panmunjom, the South suggested forming committees for each of the four subjects and promoting visits by members of separated families first of all.

The South said an accord should be sought for each subject, one by one, and that each accord should be put into practice right away.

The North maintained its position that all matters should be dealt with in a single agreement and that the two sides should form two committees, one on economy and the other on non-economic concerns.

The North also reiterated that an accord should be sought for all the subjects as one and implemented as such.

Export of Consumer Goods to Russia To Resume

SK2503015092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 92 p 6

[Text] The government plans to resume exports of consumer products to Russia from next month at the earliest. They will be shipped in accordance with bank credits to Moscow approved by Seoul.

Shipments of Korean-made consumer products to the former Soviet Union have been suspended since Dec. 27 last year because of political, social and economic turmoil entailed by its disintegration.

Early last year, the Korean government decided to supply $1.5 billion in loans to the former Soviet Union, the predecessor of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), to help it purchase Korean-made consumer goods.

The amount is part of a $3 billion economic aid package which the Korean government agreed with the defunct Soviet Union to supply until the end of next year in a bid to boost its backward economy.

The package included the supply of $1 billion in cash and that of $500 million in tied loans with which the former Soviet union is obliged to purchase Korean-made plants.

According to the agreement on the supply of $1.5 billion in loans connected with shipments of consumer products to the former Soviet union, the government was scheduled to provide $800 million last year with the distribution of $500 million this year and $200 million next year.

The Korean government has already delivered $1 billion in cash to the old Soviet Union.

But shipments of consumer products to it last year amounted to $470 million, $330 million short of the agreed amount.

The Korean government suspended additional shipments of consumer products to the former Soviet Union in the fear that the retrieval of the due amount will be impossible because of its political, social and economic crisis.

But the Korean government has recently decided to resume shipments of consumer products to Russia as the Russian republic guaranteed to pay the appropriate amount under any circumstances.

In case exports of consumer products to Russia are resumed, it will greatly alleviate the financial burden on domestic business concerns which have decided to ship their products to the former Soviet Union.

Editorial Examines Development of PRC Relations

SK2503021492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Fledgling Seoul-Beijing Ties"]

[Text] The relationship between Seoul and Beijing is marked by sound development as far as economic cooperation is concerned, but political rapprochement has been a lot slower, especially compared with that with other members of the former socialist bloc. Korea and China, nonetheless, are expected to make headway when Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok visits Beijing next month to attend the general session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

So far, Seoul has been enthusiastic about having the two neighboring countries achieve diplomatic normalization, while Beijing has been hesitant, mainly because of its still close ties with its ally, North Korea. Nevertheless, Seoul and Beijing have rapidly promoted economic ties with an expected trade volume of some $5 billion this year, the highest with a formerly or presently socialist country.

On the other hand, with the development of Seoul-Pyongyang relations, China has been provided some excuse to attempt some political overtures. So, it is to be noted that Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has told Korean reporters that he is willing to discuss any problems connected with Chinese-Korean relations.

Though the Chinese minister declined to elaborate on his remarks on the diplomatic normalization issue, he did not rule out the possibility of such occurring, adducing the increasing trade and easing tension and the trend of stability on the Korean peninsula.

The development of the present relationship is desirable, as Qian put it. Political rapprochement is certain to accelerate relations in all aspects including of course economic cooperation but Korea needs to be patient.

Given the example of the former Soviet Union, the diplomatic normalization should be matched by creation of better economic and social conditions. With the

maintenance of the present cooperative pace the political rapprochement will be consummated without hitch in the near future.

Foreign Minister, RSA Counterpart Discuss Ties

SK2503052792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0505 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and South Africa agreed Wednesday to discuss diplomatic normalization in the near future.

Roelof [Pik] Botha, the South African foreign minister, and his South Korean counterpart, Yi Sang-ok, discussed the possibility of opening formal ties here Wednesday morning, Ministry officials said.

Botha invited Yi to visit his country, the officials said.

The two agreed to talk about diplomatic normalization through the South Korean Embassy in Japan and to open the talks in the near future.

Botha explained the results of last week's referendum, in which voters supported the South African Government's efforts to end apartheid, the officials said.

Botha, the first South African foreign minister to visit South Korea, came to Seoul on Tuesday. He leaves the country Wednesday afternoon. South Africa sent one squadron of fighter planes comprising 826 airmen during the Korean war (1950-1953), with 30 men killed and nine missing.

He is on an Asian tour that will also take him to Japan, Singapore and Thailand.

South Korea lifted economic sanctions on South Africa in January, following liberalization of personnel exchanges in November last year.

Hyundai Plans Projects in Libya, Southeast Asia

SK2503053192 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 23 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] Hyundai Engineering and Construction is planning to receive orders for overseas plant construction worth a total of $3.87 billion this year .

Hyundai Engineering and Construction is pushing ahead to receive orders from Libya's Melita thermal power station project worth $1.8 billion. A contract will be concluded at the end of this month. Other contracts include a natural gas processing plant worth $250 million and ethylene producing facilities worth $600-$700 million in Malaysia and an expansion project worth $350 million for Indonesia's Cibinyong [name as transliterated] cement plant.

The company is also preparing to receive orders from Hong Kong for Chingma [name as transliterated] suspension bridge construction worth $650 million, which is part of a new airport construction project, and from Singapore's Sontek [name as transliterated] for an architectural project worth $450 million.

Meanwhile, the contract to carry out construction of the Libyan Melita thermal power station project worth $1.8 billion is being delayed because of the U.S. sanctions against Libya. Hyundai group revealed that it will be receiving a letter of intent for a contract at the end of March.

Labor Unions To Boycott Wage Negotiations

SK2503015692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The nation's largest labor union organization has directed all 7,500-odd member unions to boycott wage negotiations until the government withdraws its policy of implementing the combined wage system.

The threat came as the nation went to the polls yesterday to elect the next National Assembly and observers immediately expressed fear that it could have a devastating impact on industrial peace.

The Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) said after a top-level meeting that wage negotiation cannot be conducted in the presence of intervention from the government to forcibly clamp down on increases in salary.

FKTU officials said emergency committees will be formed to counter the introduction of the combined wage system and the administration of the government's guideline for wage hikes of less than 5 percent for this year.

A pan-national rally will be organized at the beginning of next month amid the participation of even non-FKTU member union workers to call for a halt to unnecessary interference.

According to the officials, the hardline move became imminent after the Labor Ministry issued a list of 1,443 companies which will be subject to surveillance to ensure that the wage guideline is met.

"The government initially said the 5-percent ceiling will be applied only to 400-500 companies where the level of wages are exceptionally high. The latest announcement is in clear violation of this earlier commitment," one official said.

The FKTU officials insisted that wage negotiations must be held between labor and management free from external influence and that the government has no right to meddle in the affair.

It simply makes no sense that the government is pushing ahead with its aim of curbing wages across the nation at below 5 percent when increases in consumer prices is at least two or three times that, they charged.

Labor Ministry officials, meanwhile, admitted that the scope of companies subject to surveillance was somewhat expanded but only because the current economic situation needs desperate measures. "Certain sacrifices have to be made to improve the international competitiveness of Korean-made products, which have been weakened mainly due to steep increase in wages," one official stressed.

Whatever the nature of the positions are, industry observers said, the FKTU's line could have a strong effect on industrial peace, particularly with the general elections and the upcoming presidential vote.

They, however, warned that trade unions should not attempt to take advantage of the situation in pushing for their demands when considering the aggravating economic conditions.

At present, companies whose annual contract terms are due to expire around the end of March, are taking a wait-and-see attitude so as not to be caught in the middle of the FKTU-ministry feud.

Government Blamed for Soaring Agricultural Imports

SK2503063992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0426 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (YONHAP)—The government's failure to properly balance agricultural supply and demand caused a surge of avoidable imports last year, with importation of red pepper expanding a record 6,880.9 percent over 1990.

According to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, imports of primary products amounted to 6.93 billion U.S. dollars last year, up 19.8 percent from 1990, and the growth exceeded the overall import increase rate of 16.7 percent.

Imports of red pepper topped 4.58 million dollars, up 6,880.9 percent from 1990, imports of soybean oil surged 3,211.9 percent to 30.43 million dollars, and imports of herbal medicines climbed 35.4 percent to 10.18 million dollars.

The government increased pork imports 620 percent to 40.55 million dollars last year to stabilize the price, but caused a plunge in hog prices.

Beef imports expanded 52.3 percent to 403.12 million dollars, non-fat milk, 1,520.5 percent to 17.45 million dollars, and bananas, 1,078.7 percent to 203.51 million dollars.

Imports of fisheries products also soared markedly. Imports of Alaskan pollack grew 176.6 percent to 44.47 million dollars, fish roe, 116 percent to 81.32 million dollars, cuttlefish, 82.6 percent to 55.15 million dollars, and sea bream, 50.5 percent to 12.27 million dollars.

Burma

SLORC Appoints New Quartermaster General

BK2503002292 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Notification No. 24/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Burma, dated 24 March 1992]

[Text] Appointment of senior services personnel

The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] has appointed on probation the vice adjutant general of the Ministry of Defense, Brigadier General Min Thein, Army serial no. 8188, as quartermaster general [formerly held by Lieutenant General Phone Myint] with effect from today.

Signed: Tin U, Major General, secretary, the State Law and Order Restoration Council

Battle Report for North, Northeast Commands

BK2503021492 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Members of the Defense Services, who are working hand in hand with the people in fighting valiantly without regard for their lives, are winning victories in various military commands. Members of the Defense Services are fighting with the aim to crush the terrorist insurgents who are disturbing the peace and causing hardship to the people who wish to live in tranquility.

Northern Military Command: The Defense Services, hand in hand with the people, launched Operation Thurein Tun and Operation Yan Naing Min between 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992 during which 25 major battles and 230 skirmishes were fought.

On 27 May 1991, during a mopping-up operation, a military column clashed with 40 KIA [Kachin Independence Army] insurgents who crossed over the ferry point on the Mehka River in Injangyan. There were no casualties on our side, but six bodies of insurgents and six weapons were recovered.

On 10 July 1991, a military column on a mopping-up operation clashed with about 30 KIA insurgents in Manwe in Kamaing. There were no casualties on our side; four insurgents were killed and five light weapons were captured from them.

On 27 December 1991, three military columns began operations against the 2d KIA Brigade and its 300-men force based in Sainan, Tanaiyan, and Janbaidat regions in Tanai Township. Tanaiyan camp was captured on 30 December 1991, Sainan camp on 1 January 1992, and Janbaidat camp on 4 January 1992. Three major battles and nine skirmishes were fought during this operation. Five bodies of KIA terrorist insurgents were recovered, 36 were captured alive, and 22 assorted light weapons, two (Ikon) walkie-talkies, one telephone exchange switchboard, three telephones, one complete Video set, one 82-mm (?table), one (?connecting machine), 52 huts, one video screening theater, and one lecture hall were seized. Two of our soldiers laid down their lives for the country and nine were wounded.

On 8 February 1992, a small military column clashed with 12 KIA insurgents during a mopping-up operation along Molai creek in Momauk Township. There were no casualties on our side. Four bodies of the enemy were recovered and four light weapons were seized.

During the major battles and skirmishes fought in the Northern Military Command between 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992, 189 bodies of insurgents were recovered, 132 were captured alive, and 239 surrendered. The following items were seized from the insurgents during the operations: 275 assorted weapons, 57 rounds of heavy weapon ammunition, 9,700 rounds of light weapon ammunition, 98 magazines, 137 assorted mines, 31 assorted hand grenades, 2,313 sticks of assorted explosives, seven walkie-talkies, one telephone exchange switchboard, three telephones, one complete video set, two milling machines, 3.57 kg of heroin, 338.03 kg of opium, 72.16 viss [one viss equals 1.6 kg] of jade, Kyat 725,400, 40 mules, one dead elephant, and one horse.

During the course of the battles 49 of our soldiers sacrificed their lives for the country and two officers and 77 soldiers were wounded.

Northeast Military Command: Members of the Defense Services and the people jointly launched Operation Aung Hein Moe against terrorist insurgents in the Northeast Military Command. Three major battles and 70 skirmishes were fought between 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992.

On 1 January 1992 a small military column clashed with about 40 SUA [Shan United Army] during a mopping-up operation near estimate 044598 near Tokyin village in Lashio Township and the enemy fled toward the northeast. Two enemy bodies and two light weapons were recovered from the enemy and one of our soldiers was wounded.

On 3 January 1992 a military column clashed with about 100 SUA insurgents at point 5239, estimate T-907550 on Loi Hpa Kan mountain range, Lashio Township. Four insurgents were killed and three light weapons were seized and six of our members, including an officer, sacrificed their lives for the country.

On 9 February 1992, a military column clashed with about 100 SUA insurgents during a mopping-up operation at estimate U923536 in Mankawng village in Lashio Township. The enemy retreated after the clash. Six enemy bodies, three light weapons, and one walkie-talkie were recovered and two of our soldiers laid down their lives for the country and six were wounded.

During military operations in the Northeast Military Command between 21 March 1991 and 20 March 1992, 37 bodies of insurgents were recovered, 27 were captured alive, 11 surrendered, 45 assorted weapons, including one 60-mm weapon, 1,361 rounds of heavy weapon ammunition, 86 rounds of light weapon ammunition, 32 magazines, 10 assorted hand grenades, 1,260 sticks of explosives, two walkie-talkies, 57.43534 kg of heroin, 152.077 kg of opium, 120.93 viss of jade, and 92 feet of detonator wire were seized. During the course of the operations one officer and 24 soldiers from our side laid down their lives for the country and one officer and 61 soldiers were wounded.

Karen Leader Denies Contacts With Khun Sa

BK2503111292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Bangkok, March 25 (AFP)—Karen guerrilla leader General Bo Mya, battling to save his headquarters in Manerplaw from attacking Burmese troops, has denounced claims that he had a secret meeting with drug warlord Khun Sa late last year.

In a statement released here Wednesday, Bo Mya said the report was a plot by the Rangoon junta to defame him.

"The allegation is absolutely groundless, absurd and contains not a grain of truth," said the general.

Western intelligence sources told AFP last month that Bo Mya had met secretly with Khun Sa last November to ask for help in the Karen struggle to save Manerplaw from the Burmese.

The sources said that an agreement had been reached between the two men.

But Bo Mya said on Wednesday that he had been chairing a meeting of the Karen National Union (KNU) in Manerplaw which lasted from September until January.

"Thus it is quite clear that I could not have left my Manerplaw headquarters," he said.

More 'Terrorist Insurgents' Surrender 14-29 Feb

BK2303151792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The following terrorist insurgents surrendered between 14 and 29 February.

Southeast Military Command: Privates Zaw Min Oo and Maung Maung from the KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered together with two AK-47 automatic rifles at Bilin Garrison. Corporal Than Swe and Pvt. Sein Win from the KNU's Broken-Leg Win Maung faction surrendered with two M-16 automatic rifles at Three-Hill Garrison. Organizer Phado Tin Soe from the 4th Brigade headquarters gave himself up through the Township Law and Order Restoration Council to the Tavoy Garrison. Tha Maung alias Khine Tun from the ALP [Arakan Liberation Party] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered at Kawthaung Garrison.

Eastern Military Command: Pvts. Tun Maung and Tun Aung from the KNPP [Karen National Progressive Party] terrorist organization surrendered at Lobaso Garrison.

Northern Military Command: Pvt. Lumbang from the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist organization's 1st Brigade gave himself up at Myitkyina Garrison. Pvt. Kyaw Khin from the 4th Brigade surrendered together with one M-21 automatic rifle at Namti Garrison. Pvt. Soe Than from the 5th Brigade surrendered to the Shwegu Township Law and Order Restoration Council.

Western Military Command: Chairman Sein Nyunt Tha and Pvts. Hla Sein and Maung Khine from the National Revolutionary Party against the Burma Communist Party, surrendered at Waylartaung People's Police Force outpost.

Southern Military Command: Pvt. Saw Elgie from the KNU's 9th Brigade headquarters surrendered through the Township Law and Order Restoration Council to the Kyauktaga Garrison.

Between 14 and 29 February, 15 terrorist insurgents surrendered to the authorities. Thus, a total of 29 terrorist insurgents surrendered in February. Those who returned to the legal fold were warmly welcomed by responsible officials concerned at the garrisons.

Drug Coordination Meeting Held in Rangoon

BK2403103692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] A coordination meeting was held today between responsible officials from the Drug Abuse Control Central Committee [DACCC] and representatives from United Nations agencies to discuss drug abuse control projects to be coordinated between Myanmar [Burma] and Thailand, Myanmar and China, and the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control [UNFDAC].

The meeting was attended by Mr. (C.F. Mersi), UNFDAC consultant; Miss (Molina S. Marglene) from the UNDP [UN Development Program] Office; Dr. (La Rouge) and Mr. (Krishna Devari) from UNICEF; Police Colonel Ngwe Soe Tun, joint secretary of the DACCC; and representatives of work committees of the DACCC.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Cambodian Deputy Premier Ends Visit 25 Mar

BK2503075392 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0627 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prince Norodom Chakkrapong ended a four-day visit to Malaysia Wednesday with a call to Malaysian businessmen to see for themselves investment opportunities available in his country's reconstruction programme.

We won't resort to using propaganda to attract investors but prefer the businessmen visit Cambodia and see for themselves the vast economic opportunities, he told BERNAMA at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport before leaving for home on a Malaysia Airlines flight.

Prince Chakkrapong said the Phnom Penh administration had come out with several facilities, including tax incentives to woo Malaysian and other foreign investors.

They can now travel to any part of Cambodia without any restrictions, he added, saying that his government had lifted travel restrictions since early this year.

He said Malaysian investors should be able to tap the hotel industry as Cambodia was slowly regaining its position as a popular tourist destination.

We need a lot of hotel rooms now, he added.

Prince Chakkrapong, who described his visit as a success, said Malaysia had agreed to train Cambodians in several fields, particularly in the rubber and palm oil industries.

The Rubber Research Institute (RRI) had agreed to provide training courses, especially in the rehabilitation of the rubber plantations covering about 60,000 hectares in Cambodia.

We will also send our civil aviation technicians to learn from Malaysia Airlines, he added.

Labor-Intensive Industries Requested

BK2403140292 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Cambodia, recovering from the ravages of war, has asked Malaysian industrialists to set up labor intensive industries so that its people can get jobs. Malaysians were also invited to open up estates and rehabilitate existing ones.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was speaking to reporters after talks with visiting Cambodian Vice Premier Prince Norodom Chakkrapong in Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Abdullah said Cambodia's decision to permit Malaysians to make one-month visits without a visa and the move by Malaysian Airlines to operate regular service to Phnom Penh would enable Malaysian industrialists to explore business ventures there.

He said Malaysia welcomed the aspirations of the Cambodian leaders to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation.

Future Satellite Not To Be Launched by PRC

BK2503034892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0308 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—China cannot deliver the Malaysian East Asia satellite (MEASAT) although it provides rocket launching facilities, Malaysian Energy, Telecomms [Telecommunications], and Posts Minister S. Samy Vellu said.

He said China's "Long March 2E" carrier rocket did not have the capabilities to send the U.S. $250 million MEASAT.

Our satellite should be positioned at three degrees above the equator, but the Chinese rocket launcher will place it 38 degrees above the equator, he told reporters on his return from China at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang near here Wednesday.

He said that if the Malaysian satellite were to be sent through the Chinese rocket, the cost to reposition the satellite would be astronomical.

Our satellite has enough fuel to last for only 12 years in orbit. Readjusting its position would exhaust its fuel, said the minister who was invited to witness the launching of an Australian satellite from the Xichang space centre in the western province of Sichuan on Sunday.

The launching, however, was aborted due to technical problem.

But, Samy Vellu said Malaysia had not taken China, which was trying to develop a customer base for its launching service for Asian and Third World satellites, from our shopping list yet.

Malaysia last November signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the manufacturing and launching of its first satellite before 1995.

The parties to the agreement are the satellite's buyer, Binariang Sdn. Bhd.; the manufacturer Hughes Communication International Inc., and Arianespace, a French company.

Joint-PRC Information Committee To Be Set Up

BK2403044892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0422 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia and China will set up a joint information committee following the recent signing of agreement pertaining to information and films between the two countries.

Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat said the committee made up of information officers from both countries would find ways to implement matters agreed to under the agreement.

"China is interested in exchange of news, television programmes, and films with us," he told reporters here Monday on his return from week-long visit to China and Hong kong.

Mohamed said Malaysia viewed the agreement as important particularly in enhancing bilateral ties and cooperation.

He also said Malaysia had been invited to take part in the October television festival in Shanghai with participation from some 50 countries.

Environmental Protection Efforts 'Lacking'

BK2403131092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Mar 92 p 12

[Editorial: "A State of Green Chaos"]

[Text] If there is one thing that is luminously clear from the Department of Environment's 1990 report, it is the fact that Malaysia's environment is in bad shape and our environmental protection efforts are lacking in some ways.

We are reminded ad nauseum of the fact that our "throwaway" society and amoral industries are responsible for the environmental degradation in the careless pursuit of material gains. Unless and until we show gumption in actually doing something about this state of environmental decay, it may well escalate to a point of no return. With seismic force, we must mend our ways and repair the damage. But neither contrition nor reparation are sufficient to ensure environmental harmony.

There is a need to reorganise the Government's policies and priorities, recast corporate strategies and refine the public's behaviour and attitude. All these must be done within the framework of sustainable development—where the patterns of development must respect and nurture the environment while providing the benefits of economic growth. In such a framework, the principle of accountability must operate.

The parasites and predators on the country's ecosystem, namely the various industries operating here, must shoulder responsibility in improving and protecting the environment. Where companies share common air and water, they should also learn to efficiently share the burden of keeping them clean. The guilty industries should be made to pay for the pollution their activities caused.

This should not be confined to the meagre amount of the penalty fine imposed on them. It is high time the Government charges them fees according to the amount of waste they create. Perhaps, the imposition of "green" taxes on these industries may be persuasive enough for them to refrain from dirty habits.

Similarly, the granting of incentives to adopt environmental technology in efforts to prevent pollution and reduce waste may lift industries from their environmental apathy. Companies should also rethink their manufacturing process from the ground up and eliminate those processes that cause pollution. Such a move makes sense because they will save money by preventing pollution early rather than trying to cope with it later.

But it remains an open question as to whether companies want to stay two steps ahead of environmental regulators. Perhaps, any apathy in complying with regulations is due to the fact that the department itself lacks "teeth" to regulate the industries. Isn't it time, considering its importance, for the department to be elevated to Ministry status?

It is in the public's interest that the department should release the names of the companies guilty of defiling environmental regulations. This will allow consumers to have a choice to say "no" to their products as an effective way of teaching the industries to be environment-friendly. Consumers must also make attempts to change those consumption patterns which are harmful to the environment.

The Government should also review the effectiveness of our existing environmental laws. The existing penalty fine is not sufficient. Are there provisions on liability and compensation for environmental damage? Is there adequate mechanism for the prevention and settlement of environmental disputes? What about a funding mechanism for environmental disaster from the industries operating in the vicinity?

The Worldwatch Institute estimates that Poland and eastern Germany need US$20 billion and US$250 billion respectively over the next 20 years to clean up their ecological damage. Inaction and delayed action are clearly costly. Prevention is the best remedy. Which is why the nation urgently needs a new corporate mindset from its industries to protect the environment.

Cambodia

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Departs 21 Mar

BK2403075392 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Mar (SPK)—Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa left Phnom Penh Saturday [21 March], ending his three-day visit to Cambodia.

He was received the same day before his departure by Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly.

Chea Sim stressed on this occasion that the visit by the Japanese delegation brings another contribution to the friendship and solidarity which unite the two countries' governments and people and enables Japan to witness the implementation of the Paris peace agreement by the State of Cambodia.

The chairman of the CPP Central Committee proposed that Japan finance the construction of schools, hospitals, and especially reception centers for Cambodian refugees.

"The State of Cambodia's Government wished that Japan assist Cambodia in restoring peace," Chea Sim reaffirmed.

For his part, Koji Kakizawa reiterated the full support of his government to the State of Cambodia's efforts in implementing a national reconciliation policy and highly appreciated the all-around achievements of the past 13 years.

"The Japanese Government pledges to do its best to contribute to promoting the implementation of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement, particularly to rebuilding Cambodia," said Koji Kakizawa.

During his stay in Cambodia, the Japanese deputy foreign minister paid a courtesy call on Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council.

He was also received by Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, SNC member; and Hor Namhong, Cambodian foreign minister and SNC member.

The Japanese deputy foreign minister also visited Chrouy Changva bridge, destroyed by the Khmer Rouge in the 70's, and Angkor Wat temple in Siem Reap Province.

Business Cooperation With Indonesia Discussed

BK1803055192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0508 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Mar 18 (OANA/ANTARA)—Cambodian businessmen have called on their Indonesian counterparts to establish cooperation in the fields of telecommunications, construction services, and trade.

Indonesian Ambassador/Permanent Representative to Cambodia Taufik Rakhman Sudardo said here on Tuesday that he had received request from Cambodian entrepreneurs to establish business cooperation.

Indonesian businessmen need to expand their business potentials to Cambodia in order to further improve the Indonesian image which has been good in that country, Sudardo said.

Sudardo said that Cambodian businesses wanted to cooperate in the development of technical facilities such as telecommunications and construction service in their country.

Indonesia has good image among the people of Cambodia because they have the confidence on Indonesia as often referred to by the Supreme National Council (SNC) Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Sihanouk always mentioned specifically Indonesia as his nation's friend each time he held an SNC meeting which was attended by foreign represenatives, he said.

According to the Indonesian representative, the situation in Cambodia now is returning to normal and the people are now developing various public facilities and private businesses.

There still could be Indonesian businessmen who question why Cambodia needs a lot of investment while it is still involved in wars, he added.

Sudardo explained that banking and transportation agencies had a greater chance and bright prospect to develop the Cambodian economy.

Malaysia has this month opened direct flights from Kuala Lumpur to Phnom Penh. "Actually it would be easier for Indonesia to open such a direct flight to this country," said the ambassador.

Businessmen from Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore did not hesitate to take the advantage of the Cambodian commodity market and services by utilizing the duty-free import/export licensings, he added.

Sudardo explained that even though Indonesia has politically gained popularity in that country, its commodities were not yet well-known by the Cambodian people.

The business opportunities in Cambodia are not quite different from those of other neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore which are relatively more advanced.

The former ambassador to Vietnam and Senegal said that the per capita income of the Cambodian people was about 100 U.S. dollar a year.

Therefore, the labour cost in that country is low while Cambodians are known as hard workers.

Party Leadership Greets Lao Party Anniversary

BK2403073792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] On the 37th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] addressed a congratulatory message to the LPRP Central Committee. The message says in essence:

On behalf of the CPP Central Committee, we would like to convey to the LPRP Central Committee and the party leadership warm congratulations and best wishes on the 37th founding anniversary of the LPRP, which originated from the Indochinese Communist Party.

During the past 37 years, the LPRP has led all ethnic groups of the Lao people to brave all kinds of difficulties and scored brilliant results in defending and building a peaceful, independent, united, and socialist Laos. The CPP would like to most vigorously congratulate the successes of the fraternal Lao party and people and firmly believes that in the current changes and evolution of the international and regional situation, the Lao people will certainly score greater victories in implementing the resolutions of the LPRP's fifth congress.

On this solemn occasion, we would like to express sincere gratitude to the Lao party and people who have constantly provided wholehearted support and assistance to the Cambodian party and people.

May the relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between our parties and people get better and better.

Son Sann Interviewed on Peace Process 12 Mar

BK2403120392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Interview with Son Sann, president of the KPNLF, Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and member of the SNC, Supreme National Council, by unidentified station correspondent on 12 Mar; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a representative of the Voice of the Khmer. My respects to Your Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]. First of all, I would like to thank Your Excellency KPNLF president for granting me this interview. I would like to pose the following question to Your Excellency: Now, since signing the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991, can you please tell us how well that agreement has been implemented?

[Son Sann] I would like to recall the statement I have made many times already. I have appealed to all Cambodian brothers, those in the four factions, to understand that the stage of fighting which lasted for dozens of years came to an end on the day we signed the draft agreement in Paris on 23 October 1991. Now we are beginning another stage, the stage of national reunification. If we cannot force all of us to achieve national reconciliation, we cannot bring about lasting peace for the Cambodian compatriots. I have also expressed the hope that the four Cambodian factions would sincerely and strictly respect and implement the accord we freely signed in Paris on a solemn occasion together with the representatives of the Big Five, the six ASEAN representatives, and representatives of Japan, India, Vietnam, and Laos. All of us Cambodians have demanded that Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general, and the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces come to Cambodia as soon as possible. And we saw—you and I—that before the arrival of Mr. Akashi and UNTAC there was fighting in Kompong Thom. The Democratic Kampuchea faction and that of Phnom Penh put the blame on one another. No one accepted responsibility for the fighting. We also saw that the two factions sent guns and munitions for more fighting not only in Kompong Thom but in many other places, such as Svay Chek.

The Democratic Kampuchea faction or Khmer Rouge have charged that Vietnamese were behind the forces of Phnom Penh. Phnom Penh denied that charge. As for Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, he urged UNAMIC—the UN Advance Forces in Cambodia—to hold an investigation to find out whether or not there were Vietnamese operations at work. We have also learned through the press that there still are some Vietnamese forces operating in Cambodia and that there are Vietnamese advisers in the country. All compatriots in Phnom Penh and the rest of the country and I myself know that Vietnamese colonists still arrive in Cambodia every week. Once they arrive, they are taken to settle throughout Cambodia. We suspect that the new Vietnamese arrivals are welcomed by an organization which has well-prepared plans to send them for settlement in assigned villages and communes throughout Cambodia. Who is behind that institution, that organization? The compatriots are invited to think that over.

You must have learned from the press or heard over the the radio of the incident in Kompong Thom where a UNAMIC helicopter on an inspection tour was mysteriously shot at and an Australian colonel onboard was injured. Like all of you, I feel greatly saddened by that news, since these UNAMIC gentlemen as well as the upcoming UNTAC teams—both military and civilian—are here to help us, to help bring lasting peace back to Cambodia. It is regrettable that someone had shot at and injured the Australian colonel. This has greatly tarnished the prestige of Cambodia as a whole.

All of these incidents that I have recounted for your information are avoidable. In order to avoid them, the four Cambodian factions must place the superior interests of Cambodia above all else, must not listen to foreigners, and must observe self-restraint so that we can achieve national reconciliation. I beg all four Cambodian factions, especially the faction of Democratic Kampuchea and the Phnom Penh faction, to sincerely implement the solution that the Big Five worked out for our Cambodian problem and that we signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 of our own free will. I also beg all brothers in the four Cambodian factions not to seek to obstruct the implementation of that Paris agreement. If we are not careful, if we let obstruction occur, and if we fail to sincerely and correctly implement the agreement, it

means that we do not want lasting peace in Cambodia, and that we oppose the aspiration of the Cambodian people, who all want lasting peace in their country.

[Correspondent] Thank you. Can you tell how to proceed to make peace in Cambodia last for a long time?

[Son Sann] In my opinion, first of all, Cambodians in the four factions must have the desire to fully implement the Big-Five solution that we agreed to accept and signed in Paris on 23 October 1991. That agreement has all kinds of provisions to bring lasting peace back to Cambodia. Moreover, we must sincerely cooperate with His Excellency Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general, and with the UNTAC forces that are coming to the country soon. Besides, we must observe fairness so as not to discourage any countries or personalities from coming to help us. All of us must be fair and work not to dishearten Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who in his capacity as the SNC chairman is working day and night for the sake of Cambodia. Anyone who is unfair toward the prince will have his due. Consider the Khmer Rouge brothers who were victims at the demonstration in Phnom Penh on 28 November 1991. They kept asking for a house in Phnom Penh where they could live comfortably in total safety. These gentlemen from the Democratic Kampuchea faction finally agreed to take an existing house and rebuild it temporarily on a vacant lot south of the royal palace. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, SNC chairman, agreed to that temporary solution by granting them a piece of land near the royal palace, which was vacant even before the prince's return to Phnom Penh. This lot has always been vacant. It was not an occupied piece of land whose tenants were asked to vacate. It was vacant even before the return of the prince. This is the truth. For this reason, I also urge the Democratic Kampuchea faction to be more understanding and to refrain from causing any inconveniences to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who really has the interests of Cambodia at heart.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir. Recently, a staffer of the KPNLF Information Department whose duty it was to organize the distribution of the weekly KPNLF bulletins in Phnom Penh, Mr. Leng Loeung, was shot and injured in an assassination attempt. Do you have any comment?

[Son Sann] I greatly regret the accident that happened to our KPNLF bulletin man. The attack on Mr. Loeung shows that someone does not want press freedom in Cambodia. I do not know who that person is. If he is a Cambodian, the current Phnom Penh authorities must take appropriate measures to prevent a recurrence of the accident because they are in charge of ensuring security for all citizens, first of all for those involved in the news business. If such attacks are allowed to recur, human rights and press freedom will be violated. On the other hand, if the attacker is not Cambodian, it is even more obvious. I am not going to elaborate—let the compatriots judge for themselves. I still beg the responsible authorities to take steps to prevent a recurrence of such accidents in the future. I thank them in advance. Personally, I pray to the powers of all gods and deities to protect press freedom in Cambodia and help Mr. Loeung recover promptly from his injury.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir. We have seen that quite a large number of political and war prisoners have been released. Do you think that all detainees have already been released from the prisons controlled by the State of Cambodia faction?

[Son Sann] Before answering your question, allow me to fulfill my duty. I would like to express profound gratitude to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the SNC, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Amnesty International, all merciful people, and also the Phnom Penh faction for releasing hundreds of political detainees and prisoners of war last January. Recently, Phnom Penh released Mr. Hem Kroesna, who had been detained since 1979, and five other fellow detainees. I thank Phnom Penh for that. However, returning to your question, I have well-founded information that there still are many political detainees in prison—more than 100 prisoners taken from the KPNLF side alone. I take this opportunity today to beg the prince chairman of the SNC and responsible personalities to grant amnesty on the occasion of this traditional new year to all political and war detainees, regardless of whether or not they have already been sentenced. The pardon granted on the new year is a custom of all countries. It will be a good occasion to show the rest of the world that the four Cambodian factions are united and reconciled. These prisoners should be released, for they would be released anyway by the international community, which would be asked for a review of the convicted prisoners. When it is found out that their crimes are not serious, they will be released. Since we would be forced to release these prisoners anyway, why not release them now, on the Cambodian traditional new year? It can only benefit our nation and show that we are reconciled. I would like to express my thanks in advance.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir. My next question concerns our forests. I have observed that all countries in the world have lately been campaigning hard for the preservation of forests, including Thailand and Laos, our neighbors. Do you have any opinion on forest preservation in Cambodia?

[Son Sann] This is a very important issue for our country. As you said, Thailand and Laos have already banned logging. Laos even bans the wood processing industry and exports of timber. All brothers are very well aware that the Vietnamese aggressors occupying our country over the past years have ripped our forest apart and have sent our timber back to their country. The indiscriminate logging that has been carried out without proper tree replanting has had a very bad impact on the climate in Cambodia. In our country, it is and will continue to be so dry in this dry season month and those following that people will have difficulty finding bath water, and they will experience abnormal floods in the

rainy season. Moreover, the logging of trees in the lowlands around Tonle Sap Lake will cause the denuded land around the lake to become barren. Nothing will grow on it. The rain will also cause serious silting of the lake, making it hard for fish to survive. These are the bad effects of the illegal logging. It is time to abandon logging now. We must thoroughly revise the law and force those who fell trees to replace them with young ones from now on. I urge those who are responsible to stop granting logging concessions. On the contrary, trees must be replanted everywhere to replace the ones that have been logged. All compatriots must be strict on this matter. I know that some countries have already experienced a drastic climatic change. Any country that has depleted its forests has a climate that becomes continually warmer, to the point of becoming uninhabitable.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir. Before concluding, please tell us about the repatriation of Cambodian war refugees. To what extent has the repatriation plan been carried out?

[Son Sann] To my knowledge, on 30 March, some 600 of our refugees in Site II will be repatriated. It is my personal desire to be at Site II on 30 March to bid farewell to the 600 brothers and sisters who are to be repatriated. On that occasion, I will express profound gratitude to His Majesty the King of Thailand and the Thai Royal Family as well as the Royal Government of Thailand and all Thai authorities, including General Suchinda Khraprayun, who will be there to preside over the departure ceremony for our 600 refugees. I will also thank those responsible on [words indistinct] and other humanitarian organizations whose relief operations we refugees at Site II have enjoyed for the past 17 years. On this occasion, I would like to urge all compatriots who are soon to return to Cambodia to maintain good discipline and abide by the orders of our leaders. Let me make it clear that those of you who are to be repatriated will live freely in the areas of your choice. You have freedom of choice. No one, no organization can force you to go where you do not want to go. I hope that all of you will be safe from mine-related accidents, from robberies, or from any harassments. I hope that you will have aid, land on which you can grow rice or other crops, and houses where you can live in peace and happiness. I hope that all of you who will return to Cambodia will not forget the instructions of your leaders over the past many years. Please do not forget Site II, do not forget the KPNLF, and do not forget Grandfather Son Sann.

As for Grandfather Son Sann, he is not going to forget anyone of you, wherever you will be living, in whatever district and whatever village. He will always miss those of you from the KPNLF ranks. We will see each other again. All of you are asked to join with Grandfather Son Sann to rebuild the country, and to help those who win the votes to build our country and bring about prosperity, human rights, and democracy.

[Correspondent] Thank you, sir. Do you have anything else to say to the venrable monks and our radio listeners?

[Son Sann] My respects to venerable monks, dear compatriots: It is my belief that if we want security, peace, and freedom, we must respect justice and human rights. I have seen that the Khmer Rouge have tried very hard to suppress all religions in Cambodia. But they have failed because we Cambodians need religions—first of all, Buddhism. For this reason, we Cambodians are hungry for and in great need of human rights because we understand that human rights will unfailingly be restored in Cambodia, for in the Big-Five solution that we agreed to accept and we in all four factions signed in Paris on 23 October 1991, it is stipulated that human rights must be restored in Cambodia. Therefore, we cannot avoid having them back. Thus, we may as well immediately do anything necessary to help restore human rights, which cannot be avoided. If we respect human rights now, we will have the right to national reunification. National reunification is necessary for lasting peace in Cambodia. If we want our people to be both happy and prosperous with lasting peace in Cambodia, we must achieve national reunification—that is, we must respect human rights right away. I wish that all four Cambodian factions will stop using force in dealing with one another, but apply law instead. Anyone who prefers the use of force [words indistinct]. Therefore, so that our country has peace, so that all of us have peace, anyone who wants to use force should stop using it so that in the future he will have peace, his neighbors will have peace, the people in general will have peace, and his own family will have peace. This is my plea today. Thank you, venerable monks and compatriots, for listening to me.

FUNCINPEC Condoles Death of Dissident

BK2503090892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Mar 92

["Condolence message;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] On behalf of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the party of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], members of the entire party, and the staff of the FUNCINPEC office in Phnom Penh, great and moving regret is expressed over the news of the stirring incident and death a group of hoodlums have inflicted in violation of human rights on 16 March 1992 on Yang Horn, a member of the Liberal Democratic Party led by Ung Phan.

Our party would like to categorically denounce and oppose this conspiracy and inhumane terrorist act. Along with this, our party appeals to humanitarian organizations and in particular the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, to identify these hoodlums and mete out legal punishment to them.

Finally, on behalf of Prince Norodom Ranariddh and members of the FUNCINPEC, we would like to share the grief of the familiy of the deceased and the Liberal Democratic Party in losing Yang Horn. At the same

time, on behalf of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, we would also like to contribute 200 U.S. dollars to the family of the deceased to use for Yang Horn's funeral.

Kampot Party Officials Appointed, Promoted

BK2203063592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] A ceremony on the appointment and transfer of leaders in Kampot Province was held on 13 March at the office of the Kampot Provincial People's Committee. The ceremony was also attended by Un Sarit, standing vice chairman of the Organization Commission of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee.

(Tit Riem), former first vice chairman of Kompong Cham Provincial People's Committee, has been appointed chairman of the Kampot Provincial Party Committee and People's Committee, replacing Lieutenant General Chay Sangyun who has been promoted to the rank of senior lieutenant general and appointed deputy defense minister; (Khuon Sok), former vice chairman of Kampot Provincial People's Committee, has been appointed deputy head of the Cabinet of the National Council of the front [Kampuchea United Front for National Construction and Defense].

Official on Food Shortage in Prey Veng Province

BK2303031092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Peasants in Sithor Kandal District, Prey Veng Province, have completed their dry season rice cultivation on the planned 724 hectares, including 461 hectares of [words indistinct].

(Nim Hong), chairman of the district people's committee, said the dry season rice cultivation in the district in 1991-1992 is 15 percent faster than the previous year. Among the 11 communes in the district, [names indistinct] achieved more than others. According to the district's estimates, the amount of paddy from the rainy and dry season rice production will meet the local people's needs for only four months as floods have destroyed over 11,000 of the 14,000 hectares of the rainy season rice planted. The average yield was 1,200 kg per hectare.

In a number of localities peasants have already begun to plan growing subsidiary crops such as potato, mung beans, and corn. Some people have turned to other jobs and barter to solve their daily livelihood. The district has distributed 350 tonnes of rice seeds from the Agriculture Ministry and various international organizations for unhusking and consumption in times of need.

Sar Kheng Receives UNTAC Police Chief

BK2303030292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 March at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Sar Kheng, vice chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and interior minister, received for talks General Klass Roos, chief of the civilian police of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], to seek mutual understanding on a number of issues relating to UNTAC operations in Cambodia.

H.E. Sar Kheng informed General Klass Roos about the security, social order, and administration in the country as well as along the border during the past nearly 13 years. H.E. Sar Kheng also talked about the preparations of the Interior Ministry to take part in the coming repatriation of refugeess from Thailand.

General Klass Roos said his civilian police has pledged to do all it can to contribute to promoting and realizing the peace process in Cambodia.

UN General Sanderson on Kompong Thom Situation

BK2503064292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] A high-ranking UN official said in Phnom Penh yesterday that fighting between the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and Cambodian Government troops on the outskirts of Kompong Thom Province has been stopped.

General John Sanderson, commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, said the PDK and the Phnom Penh side agreed to a cease-fire at the end of last week and the cease-fire has been respected since yesterday. UN officials and reporters have said after returning from areas in Kompong Thom Province that shelling against the border of Kompong Thom Province continues while fighting between the PDK and Phnom Penh government forces took place six kilometers from Kompong Thom town.

General Sanderson said the United Nations is making preparations to deploy peacekeeping forces in areas in which fighting occurs but this cannot yet be done until the fighting stops.

'Hopeful' Cease-Fire Will Hold

BK2403084492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 24 (AFP)—Fighting between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh Government forces has been stopped at the outskirts of Kompong Thom's provincial capital, the top UN peacekeeping official here said Tuesday.

The sides agreed to stop the fighting since the weekend and the cease-fire was holding as of Tuesday, said Lieutenant General John Sanderson, head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

"I've been cautious about saying it up till now because I wanted to be sure it was holding," Sanderson told AFP.

"I'm very hopeful we'll have an agreement on separation of forces by the end of the week," he said.

The separation means the warring factions—who supposedly ended their civil war last year—would retreat to marked territories supervised by the UN peacekeepers.

On Saturday, shelling was reaching the city limits and battles were going on six kilometers (four miles) from the city, UN officials and journalists returning from the scene said.

The four factions signed a cease-fire agreement last June and a treaty ending the civil war in October.

The United Nations is in the process of setting up its largest-ever peacekeeping operation in the war's aftermath. But forces cannot be deployed to Kompong Thom until the fighting stops, Sanderson has said.

Fighting in Kompong Thom has continued intermittently since January in what is considered the worst ceasefire violation in post-war Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge have been fighting to cut off roads leading to other provinces from central Kompong Thom, such as the vital link to Siem Reap.

Khmer Rouge forces have already blown up a major bridge on the road north to Prey Vihear.

Their forces have a major north-south supply route that was cut off by the Phnom Penh Army during fighting in January, UN officials have said.

Soldiers Heading for Kompong Thom Urged To Flee

BK2203035892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Mar 92

["Appeal to soldiers of the Phnom Penh side who have been forced by the Vietnamese aggressors to fight in Kompong Thom Province"]

[Text] The Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia [VGNUFC] received reports saying that during the past few days, the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh side had forced several hundred Phnom Penh soldiers from Preah Vihear, Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, and Kandal Provinces to reinforce those in Kompong Thom Province to launch an offensive against the liberated zone of the national resistance forces in this province.

The VGNUFC would like to make an appeal to all these fraternal soldiers and the other Phnom Penh soldiers who are being forced to go to this battlefield by the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh leaders. You should seek ways to flee back home. Do not go there to die for them. You should think it over. What have the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh leaders given you? Nothing, no salary, no food and clothes, nor medicine for you. Moreover, your wives, children, and parents have been bullied by the Vietnamese. They have never paid attention to you. All the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh leaders only want to use you in protecting the interests of the Vietnamese aggressors and a handful of the Phnom Penh leaders. For this reason, you should quickly flee back home. If you flee, you will be able to survive and it will be a way to compel the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh side to implement the Paris agreement to quickly end the Vietnamese war of aggression.

Activities of SRV Troops in Kompong Thom Noted

BK2103041692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Reports from Kompong Thom Province say that the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side are bringing fresh troops, artillery pieces, multiple rocket batteries, and assorted ammunition to Kompong Thom Province to continue attacking the Cambodian national resistance forces there.

The forces taking part in the offensive are:

—300 genuine Vietnamese troops and ammunition freshly brought in from Vietnam's 7th Military Region along Route 22 through Smach and (Trapeang Khlong) passes; and

—Troops of the Phnom Penh side, including special Vietnamese units and Vietnamese advisers; troops from the 5th, 7th, and 179th Divisions, troops of the 4th Military Region in Siem Reap and the 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham; and provincial troops from Preah Vihear, Svay Rieng, and Prey Veng Provinces.

The commanders in this operation are a group of Vietnamese military advisers attached to the Phnom Penh side headquarters, and Meas Saophea, deputy chief of staff of the Phnom Penh side.

Vigilance Urged Against SRV Maneuvers

BK2203024492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Mar 92

["Article:" "Always Heighten Vigilance To Check All-Round Maneuvers To Destroy the 23 October Paris Agreement of the Vietnamese Aggressors and Their Colleagues"]

[Text] Successive events, including military, political, diplomatic, economic, and financial activities, clearly

show that the current offensive being launched by the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side against our national resistance forces and people in Kompong Thom Province is a common plan of the Vietnamese aggressors to destroy the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

1. A few weeks ago, there were successive troop movements and transportation of artillery pieces, multiple rocket batteries, and ammunition through waterways to Kompong Thom Province from both Phnom Penh and Vietnam.

2. The Vietnamese aggressors have launched maneuvers to avoid the supervision on the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia. Particularly, they have opposed the inspection work in the western part of Cambodia. This is to enable them to continue sending troops and ammunition to the battlefield of aggression against Cambodia through waterways as successively reported to the world by our Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia.

3. There is clear evidence that (?a large part of) aid from the international organizations has been used by the Vietnamese aggressors and Phnom Penh side in the Kompong Thom military campaign, such as using rice, foodstuffs, medicine, and money for buying fuel oil and distribution in this campaign.

4. The Vietnamese aggressors and their colleagues have also launched their famous propaganda campaign of thief yelling stop thief against the party of Democratic Kampuchea. This is a trick that they have often resorted to whenever they want to fool the others, as in past events, in the war with the United States, and in their war of aggression and occupation launched against Cambodia in the past 13 years.

The Cambodian nation and people and Cambodian national resistance forces are well aware of the true nature and all kinds of schemes launched by the Vietnamese aggressors and their colleagues in an attempt to destroy the agreement by avoiding its real implementation. We are also well aware and firmly believe that the overwhelming majority of world community stands on the side of the righteousness, justice, and the victimized Cambodian nation and people, and will jointly continue to implement the 23 October Paris agreement according to its real context. That is:

1. The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the quadripartite Supreme National Council shall supervise the total withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and avoid the return of these Vietnamese aggressor forces and their weapons.

2. The supervision and dismantling of the Armed Forces of the four Cambodian factions shall be carried out simultaneously with the control of the Vietnamese forces.

Checkpoints Urged To End SRV Activities

BK2403010892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Confirmed reports from Kompong Cham Province say that on 20 March the Vietnamese aggressors brought five truckloads of DK-75 artillery shells, 82-mm and 60-mm mortar shells, and AK and M-16 ammunition from Vietnam's 7th Military Region in Tay Ninh to their forces and the Phnom Penh side. This is for the continued offensive against resistance forces in Kompong Thom Province.

The reports also say the Vietnamese aggressors brought this materiel along Vietnam's Route 22 and through Cambodia's Route 7. The Vietnamese aggressors have been playing this trick all along, after the Paris agreement, after the arrival of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia], and even after the arrival of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

The people in Kompong Cham Province, like those throughout Cambodia, who have been victims of Vietnam's war of aggression for 14 years, are well aware of Vietnam's crafty nature. People in the eastern part of Kompong Cham Province have insisted that UNTAC and the Supreme National Council set up checkpoints at (Trapeang Thlong) and Champus Sek [Parrot's Beak] in Memot District as a way to speedily control Vietnamese aggressor forces and their activities there.

KR Guerillas Detain Refugee Camp Leaders

BK2403115692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Bangkok, March 24 (AFP)—Cambodia's Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas have detained the civilian leaders of a refugee camp under their control in Thailand because they had become too close to United Nations officials, relief workers said here Tuesday.

The detention of the chief administrator of Site-K camp, near Cambodia's western border, and his deputy came only days before the start of a UN-organised repatriation of more than 370,000 Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

It has caused tension among the 10,000 inmates of Site K, one of three camps under the control of the KR, which dominated anti-Phnom Penh government forces during the Cambodia war.

After camp leader Lok Chai and his deputy were detained last week in a village some 20 kilometers (12 miles) inside Cambodia the guerrillas sent a team to Site-K to order their families back.

Family members have refused and, according to the sources, have sought UN protection. They were expected to be moved to another refugee camp nearby controlled

by the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), a non-communist group allied to the KR during the war.

The incident in Site-K was similar to one in September last year in another KR camp, Site-8, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) to the north, where the civilian leadership was also taken back to Cambodia.

The leaders of Site-8, which houses almost 45,000 refugees, were also considered by the guerrilla faction as too close to foreign relief workers and supportive of the UN repatriation scheme.

Shortly afterwards a KR military chieftain made a failed attempt to march the inmates of Site-8 across the border into Cambodia, in a move that drew parallels with forced population movements during the 1975-79 KR reign of terror under Pol Pot in Cambodia.

The attempt was thwarted after protests internationally and other KR officials admitted that it was ill-conceived, but the faction is widely believed to be still determined to retain full control over some 75,000 refugees from the three camps it controls in Thailand.

In February, more than 400 refugees were trucked from the third camp, O'Trao, to Anlong Veng, in northern Cambodia. The transfer was approved, however, by the United Nations after UN officials had checked that the refugees were returning voluntarily.

Lok Chai and his deputy, whose name was not given by the sources, left Site-K ostensibly for a meeting inside Cambodia on Friday.

They were not allowed to return to the camp as planned the next day and refugees in the settlement have learned that they have been accused of entertaining friendly relations with UN officials and have been undergoing "some kind of education," according to one of the sources.

In a separate incident in Site-8 two Cambodians were killed on Sunday in an outbreak of shooting, the sources said.

The reasons for the violence during which a Thai paramilitary camp guard was also injured were not immediately known, but one relief worker speculated it might have been related to repatriation.

Philippines

General Views Spratlys Conflict With PRC

HK2403122392 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Report by Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] There is no evident threat of a military conflict erupting between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China following the arrest by the Philippine Navy of seven PRC fishermen on the former's occupied island in the Spratlys. General Lisandro Abadia, armed forces chief, said the incident is just a small matter and could be easily resolved through negotiations by both sides.

Meanwhile, a source from the Philippine Navy has confirmed there are Chinese warships now present near the Philippine-controlled Kalayaan Island, one of the Spratly Islands. The biggest ship is reportedly a missile destroyer. According to the source, there is also a battalion of about 500 to 800 Chinese Marines scattered around the islands controlled by China. The Philippines had earlier deployed Marines on Kalayaan Island, but they were replaced with a naval construction battalion tasked with runway repairs and new facilities construction.

It is recalled that the Philippine Navy arrested seven fishermen from Hainan, China, on 20 March for fishing with poisonous chemicals about 500 meters from the Philippine-occupied Pagasa Island. The Navy confiscated 200 kg of sodium cyanide, a poison used in illegal fishing. A Philippine Navy official said China will not create a big fuss about the incident because there is ample evidence of illegal fishing activity.

Aquino 'Preparing' Military for U.S. Withdrawal

HK2503030392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] President Aquino is preparing the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the withdrawal of the American forces from the country. The president said the military should be prepared, in the face of changes in regional security cooperation brought about by the Americans' departure from the Philippines. American troops are currently starting their withdrawal from their facilities at Subic Naval Base in Olongapo.

Furthermore, the president has again called on the military to endeavor to assist the Commisison on Elections in its work to keep the May 11 elections peaceful, orderly, and clean.

Foreign Companies Interested in Subic Facilities

HK2503062592 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 25 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Several international companies are interested in moving operations into Subic Bay Naval Base when the U.S. troops vacate the facility later this year, the government said yesterday.

Regelio Singson, deputy head of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, said the list of potential bidders for Subic facilities includes Dallas-based Perot Group, Keppel Shipyard, Kawasaki and Caltex.

The Philippines plans to covert Subic, a sprawling repair and logistics center of the Seventh Fleet, into a free port.

Singson said bidding for leasehold rights of the ship repair yard, container port, airport and other facilities inside Subic was scheduled to be held in May or June.

The United States is scheduled to complete a pullout from the base, once its largest overseas naval facility, by the end of December. The Philippine Senate last year rejected a proposed 10-year, $1 billion new lease.

Singson said Perot would send a technical team next week to look into Cubi Point, a strategic airport facility which maybe converted into an aircraft servicing center and regional hub.

Other companies interested in Subic include Singapore-based Keppel and Sembawang Shipyards, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Hong Kong-based Hopewell Holdings Ltd, Taiwanese Evergreen, Sealand, American President Lines, Caltex, Shell Philippine National Oil Company, Marubeni, Petrocorp, Digitel, and PLDT [Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company].

Singson disclosed a three-stage conversion timetable of the Subic installation into the first free port in the country.

The first stage, targetted for July and December, would be to offer the existing facilities to foreign and local firms for commercialization under leasing agreements or build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) schemes.

Keppel and Sembawang, along with Kawasaki of Japan have been invited to bid for the shipyards.

Hopewell, Evergreen, Sealand and APL have been invited to inspect the Subic container port.

The second stage of the conversion, projected to be done later in March 1993, would be the drawing of rules and procedures for enlarging the special economic zone beyond the actual U.S. facilities.

The last phase calls for turning 25,000 hectares of land comprising the former naval base and the nearby city of Olongapo and Subic, Morong and Hermosa towns into "special economic and free port zone," Singson said but gave no timetable for this.

Kidnappers of Foreigners Reduce Ransom Demand

HK2503031092 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 Mar 92 p 11

[By Jay Feliciano]

[Text] Zamboanga City—Bandits who kidnapped two Australians and two Americans on Jolo Island in southwestern Mindanao have sharply reduced their ransom demand, a negotiator said yesterday.

The kidnappers are now asking for P700,000 [Philippine pesos] compared to their original demand of P2 million and four Armalite rifles, said Jolo Mayor Suod Tan.

"We promise them that we will not molest them provided they release the hostages and we'll give them a little amount. As I said, not in the form of ransom, but as a token," Tan told reporters in Jolo.

Lynette Cook, wife of an Australian missionary, her daughter Cheree, 6, and American missionary school teachers Carol Allen and Tracy Rectanus were kidnapped on Tuesday [17 March] last week while sightseeing on Jolo.

In Malacanang, however, President Aquino said she will not hesitate to order the military to use force should the kidnappers fail to release the four hostages without ransom.

Ms. Aquino said the military and the police were prepared to rescue the four foreigners should negotiations bog down.

"The military and the police are ready for any contingency and are keeping me informed of developments," Ms. Aquino said in a press statement.

Up to 20 gunmen are now guarding the four women, said Col. Antonio Villamor, commander of a Marine brigade on Jolo.

"Some enterprising gunholders have joined the four-man band in anticipation of benefitting from part of the ransom," Villamor said.

Muslim separatist rebels on Tuesday offered a ceasefire on Jolo to help the government secure the freedom of the four.

"We are offering a limited ceasefire in the area so that it will be easier for the negotiators," Ustadz Zain Jali, a spokesman for the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], told reporters.

The four were believed to have been moved by their captors near the MNLF stronghold of Maimbung, military officials said.

Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, said on Monday the four might be released within three days, adding that negotiations with the kdinappers were going smoothly.

Jali said the Muslim gunmen holding the four foreigners were not MNLF members who are fighting for a Muslim state in southern Philippines.

The government and the rebels forged a ceasefire in the region in the early 1980s but small-scale fighting and ambushes have continued sporadically in some areas.

Local Muslim leaders have been holding talks with the captors. Other officials and leaders in the area have condemned the kidnappers for violating Islamic law during the holy month of Ramadan.

Abadia, quoting a report from the military's Southern Command in the area, said the hostages were in good condition.

The Navy has mounted a blockade around the approaches to Maimbung and near the coastal town of Jolo where the kidnappers were keeping their captives, to prevent them being moved to another island.

Tan said four persons believed to be distant relatives of the kidnappers are presently negotiating for the release of the hostages.

"Hopefully, one of them can bring us good news either today or tomorrow," Tan said. "By then we will know the developments as to what will be the outcome of their negotiations."

Aquino, Police Chief on NPA Red Scorpion Group

HK2303123892 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police [PNP] director general, has confirmed the existence of a group called the Red Scorpion, which is within the Communist Party of the Philippines New People's Army [NPA] organization. Some groups have raised doubts saying the group was just a creation of the military and police. Nazareno said the Red Scorpion, the brains behind the kidnapping of American Michael Barnes, is a breakaway group of the Alex Boncayao Brigade and is better armed and organized than any other NPA units. He said in order to locate this group, a huge PNP force is needed for an operation similar to the rescue of Barnes.

Meanwhile, President Aquino said she believes the Red Scorpion Group is an armed unit of the National Democratic Front [NDF]. She said the NDF as a whole is known for its lies, especially in pursuing its propaganda and agenda. The military reported that investigations showed the Red Scorpion Group is a NPA breakaway group responsible for the series of kidnappings, bank robberies, and killings in Metro Manila and nearby areas.

In Malacanang, President Aquino said she would only consider the separate investigation carried out by the Justice Department regarding the death of some of those involved in the Barnes kidnapping. Here is Press Secretary Horacio Paredes:

[Begin Paredes recording in English] The Justice Department already announced that it is pursuing its investigation. I think that we have to respect this, and we are not relying so much on that of the Senate which is more public and more publicity generating probe. But we are looking more into the probe of the Justice Department which we hope will get to the bottom of this. [end recording]

Military Plane Crash Survivors Held by Rebels

HK2303081692 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 22 Mar 92 pp 1, 14

[By Robert Evora]

[Text] San Jose, Occidental Mindoro—Communist rebel forces here were reported holding in captivity 10 passengers of a military aircraft that crash-landed in Southern Mindoro seven months ago, a former rebel claimed yesterday.

The survivors, headed by pilot Capt. Jose Mari Navarro, were being held in a well-fortified guerrilla base under the jurisdiction of the Felizardo Aquino District Committee (FADC) of the New People's Army (NPA) operating here.

The captives were being treated for slight injuries by a doctor from Bulacan while a former nun from Oriental Mindoro has brought food and assorted medicines for them.

Efren A. Rodrigo, 33, alias "Ka [Comrade] Pepe," a former NPA [New People's Army] leader who operated in Mindoro, Quezon, and Palawan, told newsmen that the captives had already "undergone tactical interrogation" for charges of espionage and for violation of certain provisions of the international law on warfare.

Rodrigo said that the 10 captives are now undergoing "politicalization" as a rebel requirement to all prisoners of war in the protracted insurgency to topple the government.

The same source said the captives will be used by the rebels as a "tactical shield" against government troopers who are conducting counter-insurgency operations.

Task Force Cross Bow, under Senior Supt. Recaredo Sarmiento II, is the operational umbrella of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in the government's anti-insurgency drive covering the two Mindoro provinces.

The NPA, Rodrigo said, is convinced that the ill-fated aircraft, a BN [Britten Norman] Islander AF-559 twin-engine plane of the Philippine Air Force [PAF] 15th Strike Wing, was used by the government for intelligence-gathering missions.

The Islander was reported earlier to have crash-landed in the mountain sitios of Baelan and Baywagan in Mansalay town, Oriental Mindoro, on Aug. 28, 1991.

The PAF's air and ground search-and-rescue teams could not locate the plane's wreckage because NPA rebels covered it with leaves, twigs and branches of trees and soil.

Military Says Communist Party To Oust Chairman

HK2503093692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] Jose Maria Sison, chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], may be removed from his position, and this could lead to the formation of a breakaway faction within the CPP.

Brigadier General Alfredo Filler, Armed Forces of the Philippines intelligence chief, said that a rift within the CPP is rapidly spreading because of Sison's wish to rule and manage the CPP through remote control and fears that many of the movement's cadres have reached the culmination of their membership. [sentence as heard] Filler added that the confused cadres may form a new group if Sison refuses to resign as CPP chairman. According to Filler, Sison used the same procedure during the time of the former Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas [PKP-Communist Party of the Philippines] headed by Jesus Lava and following the military's defeat of the Hukbalahap [Hukbong Bayan Laban sa mga Hapon-People's Anti-Japanese Army]. Filler said the situations for today's CPP-New People's Army [NPA] and the PKP-Hukbalahap is almost the same; and, based on this, the cadres may press for Sison's expulsion. This is reportedly the only way the communist rebels can prevent the CPP-NPA's defeat in the coming months.

Comelec Appoints Ex-Military Rebel as 'Adviser'

HK2503055492 Quezon City MALAYA in English 25 Mar 92 pp 1, 7

[By Carlito Pablo]

[Excerpt] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] has tapped former rebel intelligence officer Col Eduardo ("Red") Kapunan as its adviser on peace and order matters for the election period, Commissioner Haydee Yorac said yesterday.

Kapunan started work early this month with the "blessings" of Gen Lisandro Abadia, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff. "He (Kapunan) goes around with me and observes people and procedures. Then we discuss possible security measures," Yorac said.

"He gives me advice particularly regarding the more difficult parts of the country. But in the end, it is the commission that decides," Yorac added.

Kapunan, who turned himself in last year, was a founding member of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement which had been implicated in a number of coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

In addition to his duties, Kapunan also assists in the voters' education program of the commission.

The Comelec is also planning to tap the AFP as the lead agency instead of the PNP for poll security duties in areas considered as "hot spots" due to intense political rivalries.

Under normal conditions, the PNP [Philippine National Police] leads in the implementation of security programs.

Yorac identified Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Masbate as some hot spots where this reversal of roles could be set in place.

"In other areas, members of the PNP are related or identified with contending parties. So it's more effective to place the AFP as lead agency," she said.

Yorac said the scheme was successfully tested in some areas in Lanao del Sur where the local military command was tasked to discharge principal security roles during the registration of voters.

Detained Brig Gen [Brigadier General] Edgardo Abenina, who is running for senator under the Nacionalista Party, yesterday belied reports that rebel soldiers, under his leadership, were again plotting to launch another coup.

In a telephone interview from his detention cell at Camp Aguinaldo, Abenina said he suspects that the rumor is part of a "smear campaign" by his opponents in the military to bar him from being given temporary liberty to campaign.

Abenina was implicated in the December 1989 coup attempt.

"Paano mangyayari iyon, eh ako'y nakakulong at ang aking pinagtutuunan ng pansin ay ang aking kandidatura sa pagkasenador," [How is that possible when I was locked up and am concentrating on my senate candidacy,"] he said.

He said foes in the armed forces are apparently bent on preventing him and other rebel officers from campaigning so that they will not win.

Abenina said it is ironic that the AFP refuses to release them, even temporarily, when they have been saying the military rebels no longer have the capability to launch a coup. [passage omitted]

Three Ramos Supporters Injured in Bomb Blast

HK2503060992 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 25 Mar 92 p 16

[Text] At least three sympathizers of the Lakas Edsa [Edsa's Strength]-National Union of Christian Democrats (NUCD) were injured last night after a pillbox [small bomb] and molotov cocktail were thrown at them as they were about to complete a march in Malabon along with 1,500 other supporters, a statement from the administration coalition yesterday said. The same statement said "political observers in Malabon said the

Comelec (Commission on Elections) gun ban is not being strictly enforced against bodyguards of Mayor Prospero Oreta (a reelectionist under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), about a dozen of whom—although in civilian clothes—were seen at the Comelec office carrying firearms tucked in their waistlines." The said incident was reportedly followed by a bomb threat received by members of presidential aspirant Fidel V. Ramos's staff the other night in their headquarters in Pasay Rd [Road], Makati. "A caller warned a bomb had been planted inside the building," the statement claimed. This incident, the statement went on to say, was investigated by PO3 [Police Officer 3d Class] Affredo Nunez of the Makati Police. The statement recounted that their supporters were nearing the campaign headquarters of the Lakas-NUCD, which is just a few meters away from the municipal hall, when a pillbox and a molotov cocktail were hurled at the marchers who scampered in different directions. Two of the injured were hit in the head by a long piece of wood and by pillbox shrapnels in different parts of the body while the third injured person was reportedly hit by a dart from a slingshot following the explosions. The same statement reported that a common candidate for the mayoral race, incumbent vice-mayor Lourdes Yambao, was put up by the Lakas-NUCD together with the LP-PDP, Laban [Liberal Party-Pilipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength], NPC [Nacionalista Party Coalition], PRP [People's Reform Party], KBL [New Society Movement], PMP [Party of the Filipino Masses] and NP [Nacionalista Party] to contest the seat with incumbent Mayor Prospero Oreta of the LDP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats]. The "Lakad Bayan" was a walkathon spearheaded by Akbayan, the youth sector of the Friends of Ramos in the town, which started from Potrero at 6:30 p.m. to the municipal hall, the statement said.

Police Assume Some Coast Guard Duties

HK2503051792 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 25 Mar 92 pp 1, 17

[By Roy C. Sinfuego]

[Text] The Maritime Command (Maricom) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) urgently needs to acquire new vessels and upgrade existing ones when it takes over the police functions of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on June 30, 1992.

This was revealed by Maricom Chief Superintendent Merardo Abaya yesterday as he stressed the development of "our floating assets, especially patrol boats to counter smuggling, sea piracy, illegal fishing and search and rescue operations."

The takeover by Maricom after the 18-month transition period ending June 30 is mandated by Republic Act 6975 which created the PNP under the organized Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Abaya, in his report to PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno, said that 35 officers and 146 enlisted men from the PCG are now presently occupying key positions in the Maricom. After a series of trainings, they have already been deployed to different maritime districts nationwide.

He also reported to Nazareno that four out of the 12 maritime districts are now fully operational since March 1. These are Region 1, National Capital Region, Region 7 and Region 9.

He added that regions 4, 5, 6 and 11 will be operational before the end of April and the rest before June 30.

PNP sources said negotiations for the acquisition of modern and fast seacrafts are under way to meet the floating vessel requirements of the country's police maritime police duties.

Earlier, PNP Aviation Command took over the security of all existing airport facilities all over the country from the Philippine Air Force, Aviation Security Command, early last year.

Thailand

Narong Wongwan To Head New 5-Party Government

BK2503081892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Narong Wongwan, leader of the Sammakhi Tham Party, held a news conference at the Central Plaza Hotel, Latphrao, at 1400 today to announce an agreement to form a government to be made up of five political parties: the Samakkhi Tham Party, Chat Thai Party, Prachakon Thai Party, Social Action Party, and Ratsadon Party, which will hold a total majority of 195 seat in the parliament. Narong Wongwan will be the prime minister.

Narong Views Government Formation

BK2503090692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Statement by Narong Wongwan, head of the Sammakhi Tham Party, during a news conference to announce the formation of a new government, held at the Central Plaza Hotel in Bangkok on 25 March—recorded]

[Text] I feel honored to be chosen as prime minister by the political parties that have agreed to form a government. In fact, we had not consulted much in advance because we still did not know the exact total of the four parties. Anyway, it finally turned out that the Sammakhi Tham Party got the highest number of seats—that is, 79 seats. We then started sounding out the Chat Thai, Social Action, and Prachakon Thai Parties. The four parties together will have as many as 191 votes. With another party, the Ratsadon Party, joining us, we will have a total of 195 votes. This will make a majority of more than half of parliament.

Concerning the support given me by the four parties, I think this is in accordance with the democratic principle—that a majority of more than half in parliament is entitled to form the government. I am proud to be given this honor, which I never expected. What happens next, you will know from the news. I will work for the country to the best of my abilities and with a clear-cut decision based on correctness and justice. I don't have much to say. The first thing to tackle if our four [as heard] parties are declared a government is the problem of the people's welfare. This is our priority. As for the amendment of laws, that will come second. I do not want to say much today since it is so soon since I received the support of the four parties. There will be steps to follow from now on.

Denies Drug-Dealing Allegations

BK2503125892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Questioned by reporters about the Armed Forces' requesting five major ministerial portfolios in the new government, Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan said there had been no such request to date. He added that if such a request is stated it would have to be discussed with the people concerned. He said the party with the most members of parliament should be given the house presidency post, but so far no candidate has been picked for the post.

Asked about foreign press allegations that he has had narcotics-related business dealings, Narong explained that while he was a member of the opposition there was a debate indirectly implicating his involvement in narcotics. He said he was never accused by the United States of involvement in narcotics. The accusation in the foreign press was vague and unsubstantiated; it was nothing more than politics. He will clarify this matter to the people, adding that he pays no attention to the allegation.

Chat Thai Party Confirms Government Coalition

BK2503075492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0705 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The Chat Thai Party held a meeting at the Rama Gardens Hotel at 0900 this morning. The meeting was presided over by party leader Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong and was attended by key members of the party. After the meeting, Prathuang Wichanpricha, Chat Thai Party spokesman, gave a news briefing on the results of the meeting at 1215 today.

The spokesman said the Chat Thai Party meeting today agreed that the Chat Thai Party will join with the Social Action Party, the Prachakon Thai Party, and the Samakkhi Tham Party to form a government. The four-party coalition will constitute a total of 191 seats in the House of Representatives.

Asked if the combined total of 191 seats is a satisfactory total, the party spokesman said it is a bit slim but some other parties are being considered to join the coalition. The projection has been focused on the Ratsadon Party, which won a total of only four seats in the House of Representatives. If the Ratsadon does join the coalition, the combined total seats of the coalition will rise to 195. However,the Ratsadon Party has not yet signed an agreement to form the government.

Meanwhile, at 1400 today, a press conference will be jointly held by the four parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Prachakon Thai, and Social Action Party—on the formation of the coalition government.

Sunthon Comments on Narong as Prime Minister

BK2503135692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Interview with General Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peace-Keeping Council, by unidentified reporter in Bangkok on 25 March—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Sunthon in progress] ... possible that anyone can simply announce that he will become prime minister. But I think that it is too soon to do that. Each of the parties joining the government could position itself elsewhere as it pleases. Am I right? Although the parties have already given their pledges, they could change their minds. Therefore, I want to stay out of it at this time. The commanders of the Armed Forces have also agreed to stay out and to let the political parties do their thing.

[Unidentified reporter] You want to let things take its course. How long will that be?

[Sunthon] It won't be long, no more than a month.

[Unidentified reporter] One month?

[Sunthon] No more than that. Actually, a concrete government composition formula should be known in 15 days.

[Unidentified reporter] Several circles feel you are not happy [previous word in English] with Narong as prime minister. Can you give us your reasons? [Sunthon] It is not that I am not happy [previous word in English]. The prime minister can be anyone. But as said earlier, the specification [previous word in English] for a prime minister is: he must be acceptable by the people, us, and the foreign countries. Do you understand? It can be anyone, we do not discriminate against anyone. Every party leader is my friend, colleague, or brother. It would not be right for me to be the sole judge instead of the general public. The government of the people and for the people. Do you understand?

[Unidentified reporter] Two neutral persons have already refused to accept the premier post. Am I correct?

[Sunthon] We feel that the currents opposing them are rather strong. It is okay if they do not want us. We will stay out. If they want the prime minister to be an elected MP, then go ahead. But afterwards, do not blame us for ignoring our responsibility toward the nation.

Notes Choice for Prime Minister

BK2503010192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong says he has left political parties to settle who they will nominate for prime minister.

However, he insisted :hat if the parties cannot reach a settlement and come to him for advice he will nominate either Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun or Air Force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin.

"I still stand by my word that if they (parties) cannot reach a settlement, I will choose Su and [as published] Teh," Gen Sunthon said.

Speaking to reporters at his home last night, Gen Sunthon said his meeting with representatives of the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action and Prachakon Thai parties at a guest-house at the air force base just after the election was only to sound out opinions on how a new government would be formed.

He was only a witness at the meeting.

"At this stage, I cannot do anything much. They (parties) have gone through the election. Now it is their business to negotiate.

"If they come to seek my advice, I will repeat what I have said. It will come to a formula in favour of a neutral person, either Su or Teh."

Gen Sunthon said he wants to see a stable government that lasts a long time, otherwise the country will have to spend much money on a new election.

Asked which party leader he thinks is most suitable for the prime ministership, Gen Sunthon said he his personally for New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

He added this depends on whether other parties accept Gen Chawalit, and that he does not want to interfere in the selection process because by doing so he will only be subject to criticism.

Gen Sunthon conceded there is strong opposition to a "neutral person" taking the post.

"Concerning this matter, I have told both Su and Teh that they have to think over this matter themselves. I am open to every option, just tell me. At this time we want unity in the nation.

"If a settlement is reached, we will have a stable government. This means foreigners will come with money to invest in our country. But if a settlement is not reached, everything will remain as it is."

Asked to comment on a promise made publicly by Gen Suchinda that he and ACM Kaset would not accept the premiership, Gen Sunthon said the situation at that time was different.

"If the situation requires a neutral person, either of them (Gen Suchinda and ACM Kaset) must accept the post."

Asked how the NPKC will be dissolved, the NPKC chairman said a Royal Decree must be issued for the dissolution when the new government is set up.

Minister Says Military Ready To Back Anyone

BK2503040892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Interview with Deputy Defense Minister General Wimon Wongwanit by unidentified reporters; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] According to Deputy Defense Minister General Wimon Wongwanit, when forming a new government the leaders of the political party must reach agreement among themselves as to whom they will support to become the next prime minister. The military is ready to support anyone who is selected to the prime minister's post.

[Begin recording] [Wimon] The formation of a new government is up to leaders of the political parties. They must discuss and reach an agreement among themselves as to whom they want to become prime minister.

[First Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Wimon] No, this does not involve other people at all.

[Second Reporter in progress] ...there has been a move supporting General Suchinda to become the next prime minister. How about the military?

[Wimon] No, we cannot say that. It is not right to say that way. I think, we must let the politicians, who have been elected by the public, decide to chose a party leader for the post. If the party leaders fail to reach an agreement or neither wants the post but instead decide to invite a neutral person to become the prime minister, that would be up to the political parties concerned, and would not involve anyone else.

[Second Reporter] The results of the general election show that several political parties were adequately successful. In what way do you think they should reach a compromise?

[Wimon] But that is the verdict made by the public. Therefore, leaders of political parties must get together and discuss what they want regarding the policies of each party. No one would be able to direct the political parties. If those parties share an objective, they would have to work things out among themselves. [end recording]

Election Law Violations Being Investigated

BK2503010992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Mar 92 p 2

[Excerpts] The Election Commission (PollWatch) has evidence of violations of the election law and will send a report to Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun after a meeting next monday, its chairman Kasem Suwannakun said yesterday.

He said Mr Anan has praised PollWatch for helping ensure a clean fair election.

Mr Kasem said fewer than 10 MPs were suspected of breaking the election law, and most alleged violators are canvassers. [passage omitted]

On whether PollWatch should be permanent, the Prime Minister said it depends on a report on its work.

"I think the next government will decide this matter. My government is only a caretaker," Mr Anan said.

Deputy Interior Minister Charoenchit na Songkhla praised PollWatch's cooperation with the Interior Ministry, and said the ministry was collecting evidence of "irregularities" from all provinces. [passage omitted]

Dailies See Difficulties in Government Formation

BK2503141292

[Editorial Report] Three Thai-language newspapers—THAI RAT, MATICHON, and BAN MUANG on 25 March carry editorials discussing the government formation by political parties after the elections.

THAI RAT's 800-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "Prime Minister Must Be Elected," says if this is the criteria, the parties that are entitled to form the government should be the New Aspiration Party with 72 seats, the Democrat Party with 44 seats, the Palang Dharma Party with 41 seats, and the Solidarity Party with six seats. Anyway, that total number of seats they command still fails to represent a majority in parliament. Therefore it is more likely that the 79-seat Samakkhi Tham Party will be the core in forming a coalition government, with Chat Thai Party, 74 seats; Social Action Party, 31 seats; and Prachakon Thai Party, 7 seats. Together, the four parties could invite General Suchinda Khraprayun to become the prime minister.

"But from analysis, it is believed Gen. Suchinda would not accept premiership because of problems he could anticipate from politicians whose assets have been seized," the paper says. "In that case, it is possible that the new prime minister could be an elected representative whereas the real power still remains with the National Peace-Keeping Council both directly and indirectly," the paper says.

MATICHON's 900-word editorial on page 8, entitled: "Waiting Patiently," sees difficulties in the process of forming a government by the political parties. The Samakkhi Tham Party which won with the highest votes made clear that it is willing to accept an outsider as prime minister. The party, backed by Chat Thai and the Social Action Party, would have enough seats to form a government. And if the three parties could persuade other small parties to join the coalition, the stability of the new government would even be enhanced.

"Yet, things are not that easy. The outsiders invited to be prime minister might not accept the premiership because they once stated in public that the soldiers would return to their barracks once the election is held," the paper notes, adding: "How could the top brass work with the political parties charged by them as being corrupt."

BAN MUANG's 600-word editorial on page 5, entitled: "Factors Destroying Faith in Democrcy," says the fact that parties are divided over the issue of premiership has made it very difficult for the formation of a government. "A faction of political parties accepts the power of the National Peace-Keeping Council. Under such circumstance, there will be all kinds of conditions set and finally an outsider will be made prime minister. Next is their quarrel over control of ministries. All this is a factor destroying the people's faith in democracy," the paper deplores.

NPKC Warned To Quit Meddling in Politics

BK2503014192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] The Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee, an umbrella organization of academics, students and workers, yesterday urged the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] to stop meddling in the nomination of the next prime minister and called for a mass demonstration to oppose the military interference.

Committee spokesman Withit Mantraphon, a law professor at Chulalongkon University, said the committee had decided that political parties should be given a free hand in determining who becomes the new prime minister and that the House speaker should countersign the royal command for the appointment.

"Political parties which represent the Thai people should nominate candidates for the prime ministership," Withit said. "It is improper for NPKC leaders to interfere with the nomination."

The committee, which met for three hours at Thammasat University yesteday, also asked political parties to carry out the nomination process independently to uphold democratic principles, he said.

It also asserted that the speaker of the House of Representatives, rather than the NPKC chairman, should countersign the royal command appointing the prime minister, the spokesman said.

"Although an ambiguous provisional clause of the Constitution suggests that the NPKC chairman shall countersign the royal command, we should respect the

spirit—not the letter—of the Constitution, which guarantees democratic principles," Withit said.

Burmese Troops Said Still on Thai Territory

BK2103010992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] Rangoon's troops are still defying Thailand's warning to withdraw from its territory at Mae Hong Son in their attempt to wipe out the Karen guerrilla headquarters at Marnerplaw from the rear, said a border army source.

He said that Burmese troops are camped 1.5 km from Baan Doi Saeng district after Thai troops forced them to retreat with artillery and mortar fire on Thursday.

During Thursday's attack, Thai troops launched a ground offensive after an artillery barrage on Hill 555 where the Burmese were deployed.

Thai troops captured the hill and drove the Burmese to an area nearby, the source said.

Blood stains found at the scene of clash led Thai troops to believe the Burmese suffered heavy casualties in the attack. No bodies were found, but the source said it was normal for the Burmese to take their dead back to Burma.

In the meantime, hundreds of Thai officers and heavy weapons have been transported to the area in case the Burmese launch another attack or fire in Thai territory.

According to the source, Thai troops found mines planted near Hill 555, making it difficult for them to undertake follow-up operations.

It was learnt that about 350 additional troops had been sent from Burma to strengthen the retreating army.

A military intelligence source disclosed that in a radio conversation intercepted by the Thai troops the Burmese accused Thailand of supporting the Karen forces. They were then ordered to destroy Thai artillery.

The Burmese officer also gave permission for his troops to retaliate if the Thais opened fire on them, the intelligence source said.

The Burmese on Thursday sent a letter to the local Thai-Burmese Border Committee, repeating that they would not cease their current operations until they wiped out Marnerplaw and other Karen camps.

A source said that in their attempt to capture Manerplaw, the Burmese bombarded the camp from their strongholds about nine kilometres away.

However, there were no details available of the extent of the damage caused by the barrage.

Commander of the 3rd Brigade Lt Gen Yingyot Chotiphimai apparently tried to play down the incident saying that the clash between Thai troops and Burmese in the province had not affected trade along the Thai-Burma border since the military could control the situation.

Burmese Retreat in Face of Ground, Air Attacks

BK2403014992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 92 p A2

[Excerpt] Burmese troops who crossed into Thai territory at Mae Hong Son province on Sunday retreated across the border when the Thai military retaliated with ground and aerial attacks, a military source said yesterday.

The source said the Burmese already had moved back from Bann Doi Saeng in the province's Muang district to Huay Yao village in Burma, about six kilometres from the border.

Since last week Thai troops have launched heavy attacks with OV-10 planes and support from infantry units on Burmese who crossed into Thai territory to launch an attack from the rear on the headquarters of Karen guerrillas at Manerplaw.

The attack on the Karen ethnic rebels had affected local residents living in Baan Doi Saeng and nearby areas, with several homes destroyed by mortar shells.

The same source said residents who had left the village for safe areas had now returned home.

He said the Rangoon forces were attacked on Sunday by Karens from Huay Ka Harn camp. In a fight that lasted more than 30 minutes, three Burmese were reported killed and five injured, while only two Karens were wounded.

Karen guerrillas were also reported to have moved their forces to block some routes in preparation for a battle with the Burmese forces who had been attacked by Thai forces, the source said. The Karen attack in the next few days was expected to be stronger than previous ones, the source said.

However, the Burmese are expected to continue their attacks on the Karen in an effort to capture all Karen strongholds before the onset of the rainy season.

The source said it was possible the Burmese would again cross the border to attack the Karens from the rear. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

16th Joint U.S.-SRV Search for MIAs Ends

BK2403154992 Hanoi VNA in English 1539 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24—The 16th joint excavation and search for Amercians missing in action in the

Vietnam war was conducted by Vietnamese and American experts from [words indistinct] in the Mekong River [word indistinct] provinces of Cuu Long, Song Be, and Ho Chi Min City.

At that time, the Vietnamese and American experts also investigated some reports on alive Americans in An Giang, Chau Doc, Ben Tre, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai provinces and Ho Chi Minh City in south Vietnam and affirmed that those were sheer fabrication. Another mixed group of experts also collected information on MIAs in some localities.

The American experts highly appreciated the effective cooperation and assistance of the authorities and people in localities where they had come to work.

The Amercian experts left Ho Chi Minh City for home on March 20.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Former U.S. Officials

BK2103155392 Hanoi VNA in English 1524 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet has reaffirmed Vietnamese desire to see early normalization of relations with the United States in the interests of the two peoples and of peace and stability in the region. He was receiving here today a group of former senior officials including Richard Holbrook [word indistinct] secretary [words indistinct] executive chairman of the [words indistinct] Peter Tarnoff, former senior official at the State Department and now president of the Council on Foreign Relations, Mrs. Malthea Falco Tarnoff, ex-assistant secretary of (Soaten) and a number of American businessmen. He welcomed their visit which testified to their interest in the normalizaton of Vietnamese-American relations and their frank and friendly discussions with concerned Vietnamese quarters on possibilities to increase cooperation with Vietnam. He reaffirmed his determination to continue the renovation policy and to [words indistinct] which all [word indistinct] are therefore law and are (?promoted) by law. He said that in pursuance of its foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, diversification of relations and friendship with all countries, Vietnam has [word indistinct] relations and strengthened its relations with countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Northern and Western Europe and Japan, and now wishes early normalization of relations with the United States in the interests of the two peoples and to regional peace and stability. Earlier the American [words indistinct] by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister of Commerce and Tourism Le Van Triet, and minister of [word indistinct]. They held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and visited a number of concerned offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The American guests [word indistinct] today for Cambodia, concluding its three-day visit to Vietnam.

U.S. Has Problems Commanding Other Countries

BK2403053392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Bush is capitalizing on his political capital outside the U.S. to solve domestic problems. In his State of the Union message he even affirmed: We can change the world so we can the U.S. and that we are the United States of America, we are the world leader. [sentence as heard]

It is true that President Bush has done much in influencing the political and economic situation in many socialist countries. There were many causes leading to the collapse of those countries and the direct causes cropped up from within. In the Gulf War the U.S. could not have won such a victory if it was not for the participation of more than 20 countries. The world is changing fast, but not in the way the U.S. President expected.

The U.S. has undergone the 18 month economic recession. According to THE WASHINGTON POST issued last week, the present economic growth rate in the United States has created only about 500,000 jobs as compared with 4 million jobs generated in the first three years under former President Reagan's administration. The U.S. Congress Budget Office estimated a $360 billion budget deficit in this fiscal year. This has belittled President Bush's prestige during his current election campaign. The NEW YORK TIMES in its recent issue said that more than half of the Republican Party members have not been satisfied with Mr Bush's economic performance. It seems that Mr Bush has been mistaken when self-styling the U.S. as the leader of the world. Many newly emerging countries such as Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany [as heard], and other Western countries have been claiming their worthy positions in the world politics and the right to be the leader of the United Nations.

Economically speaking, Japan is said to be buying the United States. Indeed, the world is changing. It is not easy for the U.S. to command other countries under its wand.

Nguyen Van Linh Meets Japanese Deputy Minister

BK2203141792 Hanoi VNA in English 1344 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 22—Nguyen Van Linh, adivisor to the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, today received in Ho Chi Minh City the visiting Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa. Guest and host discussed issues of common concern, and expressed their desire to further consolidate and develop the bilateral relations between Vietnam and Japan. While in Ho Chi Minh City, the Japanese deputy foreign minister met with the city mayor, and toured some economic establishments in the city.

Vo Van Kiet Greets Minister

BK2403161392 Hanoi VNA in English 1543 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA, 24 March—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet today cordially received here the visiting Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet highly appreciated Japan's positive efforts for [words indistinct] prosperity. He expressed his hope that the Japanese-Vietnamese relationship would further develop in the interests of the two countries in peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region aad the world.

Mr. Koji Kakizawa highly valued Vietnam's important achievements in the renovation process and welcomed Vietnam's foreign policy to be friends with all nations in the world as well as her goodwill in accelerating the improvement of the Vietnamese-U.S. relations, which, he hoped, would soon be normalized.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1116 GMT on 24 Mar adds the following: "Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa delivered a letter to Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet here Tuesday urging Hanoi to cooperate with efforts to account for missing U.S. servicemen, informed sources said.

["The letter from Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Japan wanted to participate as fully as possible in the economic development of Vietnam, which has been stunted by the continued U.S. trade embargo.

["'Relations between Vietnam and the United States are very crucial. As a friend I would like to wish that Vietnam will develop mutual trust with the United States through MIA/POW programs,' the sources quoted Watanabe's letter as saying."]

He expressed his wish to further develop the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Japan. Mr. Koji Kakizawa conveyed a letter from Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe to Chairman Vo Van Kiet.

The reception took place in a friendly atmosphere. Japanese ambassador to Vietnam H. Yushita was present on the occasion. Earlier on March 23, Acting Foreign Minister [words indistinct] Koji Kakizawa. The host and guest exchanged opinions over the [word indistinct] concerning the promotion of the Japanese and Vietnamese ties.

Commentary on SRV-Japan Relations

BK2403063292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa arrived in Ho Chi Minh City last weekend, starting his four-day visit to Vietnam. Upon his arrival in Ho Chi Minh City the Japanese deputy foreign minister was received by Mr. Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee. The two compared notes on matters of common interest in bilateral ties, reconstruction of Vietnam, as well as ways to strengthen Vietnam-Japan relationship.

Early this year the Japanese Government decided to resume aid to Vietnam, which was of important political and economic significance. Japan has decided to supply Vietnam with an aid package of Yen four billion this year, the first official one in the past four years. The aid, still modest, is of great significance for both Vietnam and Japan. What is worth noting is that Japan considers the resumption of aid to Vietnam a central task in its policy toward Asia once peace is restored in Cambodia. It is a fact that many Japanese economic delegations have recently visited Japan to explore market conditions as well as business opportunities. The reason behind Japan's decision is the process of renovation in Vietnam. Japan's expanding relations with Vietnam conforms to the common trend in many other countries' policy toward Vietnam. For its part, Vietnam would like to strengthen further the cooperation ties with Japan in the interest of each nation. The current visit to Vietnam by Deputy Foreign Minister Kakizawa will certainly contribute to the stepping up of bilateral Vietnamese-Japanese ties.

Joint Friendship Club Opens

BK2503072092 Hanoi VNA in English 0705 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 29—The Vietnamese-Japanese Friendship Club was inaugurated here yesterday by the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association.

The club was set up with financial assistance from the Japanese Government ($140,000) and Japanese companies and people ($74,200).

Among those present at the inauguration were Le Quang Dao, chairman of the national assembly, Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, president of the Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations, Vu Tuyen Hoang, president of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association, and Tran Hoa, minister of culture, information and sports.

Mr. Koji Kakizawa, Japanese deputy foreign minister, currently on a visit to Vietnam, Japanese Ambassador Hiroyuki Yusita, and Yatsushi Kitani, representative of the Japanese Communist Party in Vietnam, were present at the ceremony.

The club is aimed at further strenghtening the friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between the Vietnamese and Japanese peoples.

Deputies Discuss Agenda of 11th National Assembly

BK2303122792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Tomorrow morning, 24 March 1992, the 11th session of the eighth National Assembly will solemnly open in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall, Hanoi. National Assembly deputies assembled in Hanoi on the afternoon of 23 March to get ready for the session.

Before leaving for the session, the deputies met to hear the Constitutional Amendments Committee report on the fourth draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution based on the suggestions contributed by the people and various sectors and localities. The deputies also met with large numbers of voters to collect their opinions on the various issues to be raised at the session.

The Council of State, the Constitutional Amendments Committee, the Nationalities Council, and the various National Assembly standing committees devoted much time to preparing the fourth draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution and other investigative reports on the various draft laws to be submitted to the National Assembly.

On 23 March the deputies met to contribute views on the projected agenda of discussions and to study the various documents of the session. This evening, 23 March, the National Assembly will hold a preliminary session in the conference hall. Tomorrow morning, 24 March, the 11th session of the Eighth National Assembly will solemnly open in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall, Hanoi.

Vo Chi Cong Speaks

BK2403110492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] The 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly opened in Hanoi on Tuesday [24 March]. Party General Secretary Do Muoi, adviser to the party Central Committee Pham Van Dong, President of the State Council Vo Chi Cong, and all deputies to the National Assembly attended the session. Representatives of the diplomatic corps and Vietnamese and foreign correspondent were also present at the session.

Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao delivered the opening speech. On behalf of the party Central Committee, General Secretary Do Muoi also made his speech and President Vo Chi Cong, head of the Committee for the Amendment to the Constitution, read a report on the draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution.

At the opening session, Chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao said:

[Begin recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] This is the last session of the Eighth National Assembly. It was charged with a historic task to adopt the revised Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. [end recording]

Mr. Le Quang Dao also said at this session, the National Assembly will also adopt the draft laws on the organization of the National Assembly and on the elections to the National Assembly.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam], General Secretary Do Muoi spoke to the session about the Vietnamese Constitution. Do Muoi said:

[Begin recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] The National Assembly's 11th session will adopt the draft-amended Constitution to turn it into a decree of the SRV. This is a historic event taking place when the ongoing renovation initiated and guided by the party and being carried out since 1986 needs to be carried out with more diversified and more comprehensive contents with a view to leading our country to a new stage of development. [end recording]

Having pointed out the achievements recorded by the renovation during the past two years and the pending issues of the present stage, Party General Secretary Do Muoi said: The current situation not only demands but also allows us to foster the economic reform in a hard-core manner while stepping up the general renovation, especially the reform in the political system, ensuring citizens' democratic liberty, renovating the state apparatus, gradually building a law-governed state, the state of the people, by the people, and for the people. To carry out that important work, we should make basic and comprehensive amendments to the 1980 Constitution, revise unsuitable provisions and supplement new stipulations. This is an urgent demand for the entire party, people, and the National Assembly.

As the highest legal document of the state, the revised Constitution institutionalizes the revolutionary policies mapped out in the platform for national construction in the transitional period to socialism and the strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development to the year 2000. Mr. Do Muoi pointed to the points of view of the CPV on the functions and tasks of the National Assembly, the National Assembly deputies, on the state apparatus, democracy in Vietnam, and the right to mastery of the people as well as the contributions of the CPV to the amendments to the 1980 Constitution, to make it suitable to the development of the Vietnamese revolution.

Mr. Do Muoi emphasized party leadership toward the state and society institutionalized in the Constitution and recognized by the people.

Also at the morning's session, deputies and foreign guests to the National Assembly meeting heard Mr. Vo Chi Cong, president of the Council of State, report on the fourth and last draft of the revised Constitution. The report noted that by 28 February, according to incomplete statistics of 46 administrative units, provinces, and cities, more than nine million people took part in discussions and made contributions to the draft. This is the largest political movement manifesting the enthusiasm

of the entire party and people in the process of building the country's Constitution. Mr. Vo Chi Cong continued:

[Begin recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] The revised Constitution is the outcome of collective wisdom and manifestation of the right to mastership and efforts of the party, the people, first and foremost, of the National Assembly deputies. The problem is how to make it a legal basis for the allround renovation carried out under the leadership of the CPV. [end recording]

Leaders at Assembly Session

BK2403135592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Report by Kim Cuc on 24 March Hanoi opening of 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly]

[Text] Dear friends: The 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly solemnly opened this morning in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall, Hanoi. Before the opening session, the deputies visited the remains of President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum.

Present at the opening session were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee; and Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Also attending the opening session were members of the diplomatic corps and a large number of journalists from domestic and international news agencies, newspapers, and radio and television networks.

The session started at 0830 sharp. Comrade Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, read the opening speech. He said:

[Begin Le Quang Dao recording] Dear Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; dear Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; dear Comrade Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee; dear Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; distinguished guests; dear National Assembly deputies: I would like to cordially welcome deputies from all parts of the country to this 11th session of the eighth National Assembly. On behalf of the National Assembly, I warmly welcome members of the diplomatic corps, foreign guests, and other friends for their presence at this solemn opening session. [applause]

Dear National Assembly deputies: This is the last session of the eighth National Assembly. At this session the National Assembly is given a historic task by the entire people to adopt the revised Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. At this morning's opening session, the National Assembly will hear an important report by Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee, on the amendments to the Constitution. Next, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State and president of the Constitutional Amendments Committee, will read the committee's report on the draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution.

Also at this session, the National Assembly will adopt the draft laws on the organization of the National Assembly and on the elections to the National Assembly, and examine and decide on a number of other important issues.

Dear National Assembly deputies: The National Assembly's duty at this session is very heavy. May I suggest that our deputies develop collective wisdom and hold democratic discussions so that the session will end in success. I solemnly declare the 11th session of the National Assembly open. [applause] [end recording]

Following Chairman Le Quang Dao's opening speech, the National Assembly heard an important report by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi on the amendments to the Constitution. The comrade general secretary said:

[Begin Do Muoi recording] Dear members of the presidium and National Assembly deputies; dear comrades and friends: on behalf of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau, I would like to warmly welcome the deputies to the 11th Session of the Eighth SRV National Assembly. [applause] At this session, the National Assembly will adopt the revised Constitution of the SRV to turn it into a basic legal document of the nation. This is a historic event taking place when the ongoing renovation initiated and guided by the CPV since the beginning of 1986 needs to be carried out with more diversified and more comprehensive contents with a view to leading our country to a new stage of development.

Dear comrades and friends: As far as the revolutionary lines of the Vietnamese socialist revolution are concerned, thanks to the third, fourth, fifth party congresses, especially the sixth and seventh party congresses, important moves have been made to adjust and supplement major approaches, orientations, and forms and steps of development, so as to reach increasingly well-defined objectives.

Those important and prolonged mistakes about major policies and guidance in strategy as well as work implementation have been gradually overcome in order to tide the country over the socioeconomic crisis. After more than five years of implementing the renovation line, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the people nationwide, we have gained many new initial yet very important achievements in various domains. Those new policies on socioeconomic activities, on national defense and security, on foreign relations, and on the promotion of

democracy have increased the social management efficiency of the administration at various levels, maintained political stability, and improved the dynamism and creativity of the people of all strata in society. These are altering the face of the country with animated and encouraging signs. These positive changes have testified to the correctness of our renovation line.

However, the country still has many difficulties to be overcome by us. Life is constantly posing new demands. At present, the general situation does not only demand but also allows us to foster the economic reform in a hardcore manner while stepping up the renovation in a more uniform and and comprehensive fashion, especially in renovating the poltical system, ensuring citizens' democratic liberties, renovating the state apparatus, and gradually building a law-governed state so it will truly become the state of the people, by the people, and for the people.

To carry out that important work, we should make basic and comprehensive amendments to the 1980 constitution, revise those stipulations which are no long suitable, and supplement new stipulations. This is an urgent demand for the entire party, people, and, especially, for the National Assembly—the state's highest organ of power and the sole organ with constitutional and legistive rights.

As the highest legal document of the state, the revised constitution instituionalizes the revolutionary policies mapped out by the Communist Party of Vietnam in its platform for national construction in the transition to socialism and in its the strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development until the year 2000. It also serves as a fundamental judical groundwork for national construction and defense. [applause] [end recording]

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi then analyzed the origin of the birth of our country's constitution, saying that in our society all power originates from the people, as the people are the true masters of the country and our state is a state of the people, from the people, and for the people. Our administration has come into existence from the victory of the revolution. The comrade general secretary emphasized those important points about which the draft of the amended constitution has reserved a worthy space for discussion—citizens' democratic liberties and equal rights, and the human rights of all members of the social community.

After analyzing the world situation and affirming that the goal of the party and the state as well as of our entire people is to further step up the renovation undertaking in order to create bases for rapid national development in the ensuing years, Comrade Do Muoi said:

[Begin Do Muoi recording] Dear distinguished guests and comrades: The Communist Party of Vietnam is profoundly aware that given the current national situation, to continue to take the comprehensive renovation of the social life forward, and renovating the essence of the party's leadership activities and its leadership methods are the most important issues.

Just as President Ho Chi Minh put it, performing its function as a party that rules over society, our party is a ruling party. The Communist Party of Vietnam is aware of its heavy duty before the nation. The party always demands that its various organizations, especially party committee echelons, observe a self-imposed discipline under the people's supervision. The Communist Party of Vietnam operates within the framework of the constitution and the law. All party members should live and work according the constitution and the law. All of these have been registered in the party's statute and platform. The party's leadership has been recognized by our people's highest representative—the National Assembly—and has been noted in the Constitution.

The Communist Party of Vietnam pledges to do its utmost to deserve this recognition. When this fact has become constitutionally institutionalized, we should create a favorable political and judicial environement for the people to exercise their supervisory right. In reality, I think that if we led by the party, we will be able to do this. This will benefit not only the party itself, but also the country as a whole. This is an important issue. It is certain that we will be able to find a quick and good way to do it, and through this we will consolidate the party to make it steadfast and clean. We should strengthen the relations between the people and the party so the latter can truly deserve the people's trust. [applause] [end recording]

Dear friends: Also at this morning's opening session, Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the Constitution Revising Committee, delivered the committee's report on the revision of the 1980 Constitution. On behalf of the Constitution Revising Committee, Comrade Vo Chi Cong gradually briefed the assembly on the solicitation of the opinion of the people and cadres on the essential contents of the draft of amendments to the fourth constitution and some jobs to be done to ensure the strict enforcement of the revised constitution.

As for the solicitation of the opinion of the people and cadres, Comrade Vo Chi Cong said: In general, the plan has been carried out by various echelons and sectors and the people at large in a scrupulous, enthusiastic, constructive, and democratic spirit reflective of a high sense of responsibility.

He said that as of 28 February 1992, the Constitution Amendment Committee had received 74 reports condensing ideas contributed by provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government, as well as viewpoints contributed by 98 units of ministries, sectors, branches, and mass organizations at the central level and in localities. The committee also received many ideas from almost 300 individual letters and from newspapers and radio stations. Many of them contributed ideas to dozens of provisions, to the preamble, and to certain chapters of the draft constitution. Some even contributed ideas through a series of articles published in various newspapers. According to the incompleted statistic, more than nine million people from 46 provinces

and municipalities have contributed ideas to the draft amendments to the constitution. It can be said that, after the contribution of ideas to the Seventh CPV Congress document, this is the most extensive and far-reaching political activity in recent years. The Constitution Amendment Committee proposes that the National Assembly highly commends the people and cadres for their enthusiatic participation in building this fundamental law of our state.

Comrade Vo Chi Cong then presented key issues in the fourth draft amendments to the 1980 Constitution and raised some tasks that must be done to ensure a serious implementation of the revised Constitution. He said:

[Begin Vo Chi Cong recording] The completion of the revised Constitution must be made through intellectual contributions and the efforts to manifest the mastery awareness and the spirit of building the nation by the entire party and people, especially deputies of the National Assembly. Most importantly, we must ensure that the constitution is seriously implemented and is a real legal foundation for the renovation undertaking being carried out by the people throughout the country under the leadership of the party.

The Constitution Amendment Committee would like to propose a number of tasks that must be carried out immediately as follows:

1. Efforts should be made to extensively disseminate the revised constitution among the people and cadres after it has been approved by the National Assembly. This is an urgent task that must be carried out immediately. During the process of drafting the draft amendments to the constituion, the people and cadres actively and carefully discussed contents of the constitution to contribute their constructive ideas. Many of them expressed an identity of views on various chapters, while others presented different ideas on certain issues. After the National Assembly approves the revised constitution, all people must strive to firmly grasp the new features of the constitution and strive to seriously implement them. Naturally, in organizing the implementation of the revised constitution, new issues will emerge. As a result, new amendments will be made in the future, but in the immediate stage, the revised constitution must be implemented seriously.

2. We must urgently amend and formulate new laws. We must strive to make amendments to provisions of some laws, regulations, and other legal documents which are in variance with the revised constitution while formulating new laws if necessary, especially the laws on organization of agencies so as to concretize provisions of the revised constitution to ensure its serious implementation. This is a key task that must be carried out with proper planning and in a concrete, positive, urgent, careful, and deliberated manner. Particularly, we must pay special attention to checking and perfecting all distributed documents and must ensure that all lectures at universities and research institutes are consistent with the spirit and letter of the revised constitution.

3. We must perfect the state apparatus, especially organizations, councils, and committees of the National Assembly, as well as specialized agencies responsible for enforcing the socialist law. Through ideas contributed by the people to the draft amendments to the constitution, we have found out that the people noted that our state apparatus is cumbersome and ineffective, and that a number of our cadres—including those with high position and authority—become degenerate. As a result, we must urgently strive to improve and perfect state agencies from the central down to the grass-roots levels, making them compact and effective. We must train and forge the contingent of our cadres—especially those holding leading positions—boldly encourage competent young cadres to important positions, resolutely take disciplinary action against or dismiss degenerate cadres, and replace those cadres disqualified from their positions.

I propose that the National Assembly consider and make essential decisions to ensure that the 1980 Constitution be fundamentally and comprehensively revised, thereby meeting the requirements of the new revolutionary stage and reflecting the impetus and aspiration of the people and cadres throughout the country. [applause] [end recording]

Session Issues Communique No 1

BK2403152992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Communique No 1 issued by the 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly in Hanoi on 24 Mar]

[Text] On the morning of 24 March 1992, after the National Assembly deputies had visited the remains of President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, the 11th session of the eighth National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] solemnly opened in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall, Hanoi.

Attending the opening session were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, advisor to the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Pham Van Dong, advisor to the party Central Committee; and Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Also attending the opening session were many members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations in Vietnam.

National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao delivered the opening speech. Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee, read a speech on the adoption of the revised Constitution by the National Assembly. The

National Assembly deputies warmly welcomed this important speech by the comrade general secretary.

Next, the National Assembly heard a report by Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State and president of the Constitutional Amendments Committee, on the fourth draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution.

This afternoon and tomorrow morning, 25 March 1992, the National Assembly deputies will work in groups.

Radio Reports 25 Mar Meeting

BK2503053692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] This morning, 25 March, the second day of work of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session, deputies continued to debate the draft revised 1980 Constitution in groups.

In those groups participated in by news correspondents, the deputies concentrated their debate on Chapter VI on the National Assembly, on Chapters VII and VIII on the state chairman and government, and on Chapter IX on the people's councils and the people's committees.

Some deputies suggested that some items should be rewritten so as to be clearer and more concise and specific. Some items in various chapters are still contradictory and not yet unified. Some other items should be rearranged for better rationality and logic.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will hold a plenary meeting at the conference hall to hear Chairman Le Quang Dao read a report on the amended bill on organizing the National Assembly and the amended bill on electing National Assembly deputies, and to hear a representative of the National Assembly's judiciary committee read a reviewing report on these two bills.

Australia

Evans Announces Repatriation Aid for Cambodia

BK2503042692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The Australian Government is to provide Australian $2.7 million for repatriation and relief operations in Cambodia. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans announced the aid allocation during the opening of a Cambodian display at Parliament House in Canberra.

The Australian grant will go toward programs to resettle 350,000 Cambodian refugees who have been living in camps in Thailand.

A major United Nations operation to repatriate the refugees is due to begin on 1 April.

Treasurer Views Keating Plan for Spending Cuts

BK2403161892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Sydney, March 24 (AFP)—Australia's Treasurer John Dawkins has ruled out further substantial pre-election spending initiatives in the August budget, it was reported Tuesday.

In an interview with the AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW, Dawkins said that a 2.3 billion Australian dollar (1,725 million U.S.) plan to revive the economy would have to be "very largely offset" by cuts elsewhere.

The plan, entitled One Nation, was unveiled by Prime Minister Paul Keating on February 26. It envisages massive spending on infrastructure projects spread over two years.

"My own view," Dawkins said, "is that those new spending proposals will have to be very largely offset by spending reductions in new areas."

Dawkins, who became treasurer in December after Keating ousted Prime Minister Bob Hawke as leader of the governing Labor Party, will announce his first budget in August.

"This is not going to be a budget which involves considerable additions to the starting point deficit," he said.

The Treasury has forecast a budget deficit of eight billion dollars (six billion U.S.) for the financial year beginning on July 1, 1992, compared with a projected 5.5 billion dollars (4.1 billion U.S.) in the current financial year.

Dawkins said he fully supported low inflation, shelving his previous suggestions that a lower Australian dollar may be more important than keeping prices down.

Dawkins said he believed low inflation would benefit industry as much as a lower nominal exchange rate. He also ruled out the use of high interest rates to keep inflation low.

"Monetary policy is not going to be a primary mechanism for maintaining low inflation," he said.

"The primary mechanism for lower inflation is going to be wages policy," Dawkins said, adding that another wage-tax deal with the trade unions was not necessary to reach the government's inflation target.

"We have for the first time a wages policy which actually underpins a continuation of low inflation." The treasurer said he was not interested in an "over-valued" Australian dollar, but he indicated that he did not think the recent recovery in the exchange rate was being artificially created by the Reserve Bank.

Minister Says Nation's CFC Use Reduced

BK2403081892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Delegates from Southeast Asia and the South Pacific have gathered in Canberra for a conference on the ozone layer. During an opening address, Australia's minister for environment, Ros Kelly, told the conference that the nation's consumption of ozone depleting CFC's [chloroflourocarbon] has halved since 1986.

Ms. Kelly said this achievement puts Australia four years ahead of the current Montreal Protocol timetable for cutting back the use of CFC's.

Over the next three days, the representatives from industry, government, and community groups will discuss strategies to phase out the use of substances which lead to depletion of the ozone layer.

French Polynesia

Greenpeace Ship Testing Restricted French Atoll

BK2203002492 Hong Kong AFP in English 2149 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] On board Rainbow Warrior II, March 21 (AFP)—Greenpeace's flagship left Papeete harbour Saturday bound for Mururoa Atoll and almost certain confrontation with the French military as it attempts to establish a peace base at the nuclear test facility.

The environmental group's ship cleared the harbour at 9:16 a.m. (2016 GMT) and took a heading of 115 degrees as it began the 650 nautical mile journey to Mururoa to the southeast.

Nuclear campaigner and mission coordinator Stephanie Mills, 28, of New Zealand, said the Rainbow Warrior would make a brief stop at the atoll of Here Here to take control samples of plankton and coral. Scientists Briton Valerie Smith, 38, and German Simone Troendle, 26, plan to compare the control samples with others to be taken at Muroroa.

They will be looking for signs of radioactive contamination caused by leakage of material from the coral and basalt atoll, used by France for 131 nuclear blasts since 1975 when it ended its atmospheric program in the face of international protest after 44 tests there and at Fangataufa.

Within 30 minutes of the Greenpeace ship leaving port, a French naval vessel, one of three fast attack patrol boats stationed at Papeete, began to shadow the Rainbow Warrior, named after her predecessor sunk by French secret agents in Auckland harbour in 1985.

There was no sign of the frigate Lavalee, but Mills expected it to get underway within hours of Rainbow Warrior's departure. The 56-metre 550 tonne former North Sea trawler is expected to arive at the 12-nautical mile limit around Mururoa on Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on weather conditions.

Mills said Greenpeace would defy the 12-mile limit in an attempt to land a team on the atoll to establish a peace base, both as a protest against nuclear testing and to take marine samples.

French authorities have told Greenpeace that they would be breaking the law should they enter the restricted zone around the atoll.

But French Environment Minister Bryce Lallond was reported Friday to have called on the French military at Mururoa to exercise restraint in their dealings with Greenpeace.

In Papeete, military and civilian authorities said the situation on the Mururoa was quiet and that no particular measures were being taken in light of Greenpeace's plans to land on the atoll, where around 1,000 French troops are stationed to maintain security.

Mills defended Greenpeace's intention to enter the restricted zone, saying: "Radiation does not respect national boundaries, military exclusion zones or anything else—if there is pollution occurring, there is pollution occurring."

"In some situtations you take a principled stand, which is at a higher level that some piece of paper which says you cannot enter these territorial waters," she told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE].

The 1992 test series is expected to commence in May and will comprise some four to six detonations of varying size. France maintains the tests are safe and there is no risk of radioactive leakage at the atoll.

New Zealand

PRC Urged To Protect Diplomats in Beijing

BK2503045092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0434 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Wellington, March 25 (AFP)—The New Zealand government Wednesday asked China to ensure its embassy staff in Beijing are protected from students protesting over the failure of language schools here.

On Tuesday around 20 Chinese students staged a protest outside the New Zealand Embassy to demand tuition refunds from New Zealand English language schools that have folded.

Chinese student groups have accused English language schools in New Zealand and Australia of defrauding them of thousands of dollars in advance tuition payments.

Radio New Zealand reported Wednesday that around 15 million New Zealand dollars (U.S.$8.2 million) could be owed to Chinese students who either failed to get visas to come here or who registered with language schools that later collapsed.

Foreign Minister Don McKinnoaid that unlike Australia, New Zealand would not provide help to Chinese students who had lost money.

"We had to make our position very clear to these people some time ago and say the New Zealand Government is not in the business of propping up private sector institutions," McKinnon said.

"Obviously these people have decided to suddenly take it out on the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing. We have talked to the Chinese authorities about it. I hope the issue can be settled down and I hope the normal legal process will take its place in Beijing."

A spokesman for McKinnon said later embassy staff were jostled and roughed up as they tried to leave work. The assaults were not serious, "a bit of slap and tickle, but it got to the stage where we had to talk with the Chinese authorities to make sure our staff were safe and allowed to go about their business without interference".

He said the New Zealand Government had taken steps to ensure schools could no longer use students' fees before the students were enrolled.

The incident comes at a sensitive time as McKinnon visits Beijing and Hong Kong next month at the invitation of their respective governments.

Solomon Islands

'Spillover Effect' of Bougainville Crisis Viewed

BK2403103892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Solomon Islands has delivered a strong protest note to Papua New Guinea describing two raids on its territory by the PNG Defense Force soldiers as provocative and un-Melanesian. The Solomons Government has set up a

task force to address what it calls the escalating spillover effect of the Bougainville crisis. A statement issued in Honiara says that while the Bougainville crisis is an internal issue for the Port Moresby Government to solve, the worsening spillover effects are beyond the control of Papua New Guinea.